



# Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS  
NEWSLETTER  
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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

Parshat Va'eira

Volume: 18, Issue: 24 | January 12-13, 2018

Teves 26, 5778

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

## Shabbat Times



Friday, January 12	
Candle Lighting:	4:31 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	4:35 PM
Shabbat, January 13	
Shacharit:	8:45 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:42 AM
Mincha / Shalosh Seudot:	4:25 PM
Shkiya:	4:51 PM
Maariv:	5:31 PM
Shabbat Ends:	5:35 PM
Next Friday, January 19	
Candle Lighting:	4:39 PM
Mincha/Maariv:	4:40 PM

**Weather Report:** Friday night: 38°, Rain Shabbat day: 44°, morning showers

**Shalosh Seudos Sponsorship** - This week's Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Eliana, Eli and Yaakov Baum in memory of Eli's grandfather, Le'zacher Nishmas Menachem Dovid ben Shmuel Binyomin, Z"l.

To sponsor Shalosh Seudos, please speak to any Board Member or email [board@teaneckapartments.com](mailto:board@teaneckapartments.com).

**Ahavat Shalom Shabbat Gemara Chabura** - Ahavat Shalom's men's Gemara Chabura will continue on Shabbat morning at 8:15 AM in the shul led by Ian Mark. There is no required level of Gemara knowledge. For more information, please contact Ariel Kirshenbaum at [akirshenbaum3@gmail.com](mailto:akirshenbaum3@gmail.com).

**Meet the Rottenstreich's!** Estie and Evan (pre-Marlee) moved into the community in July, 2016. Estie is a social worker and Evan is the Vice President of Westgate and an outspoken Board Member. He is also an accountant. Marlee, 1, is a full-time homeschooled student. Fun fact: when Evan proposed to Estie, he did so by having himself delivered as a package to her doorstep and then popping out from inside. To this day, Evan is full of surprises!

**New Releases in 2018** - Move over family photos on the fridge! Ahavat Shalom's calendar has arrived! Shul members, if you have not yet picked up your copy from your complex's Vice President, please reach out directly to set up a time to swing by!

**January Celebration Kiddush** - The January Celebration Kiddush will take place on Shabbat, January 20, 2018 right after davening! If it's your birthday, anniversary, or any other special occasion, please reach out to the Board to sponsor at [board@teaneckapartments.com](mailto:board@teaneckapartments.com)!

**Ahavat Shalom's Cholent Competition!** Round Three will be after davening on Shabbat, January 27th. All community members are invited to attend the event (even if you missed Round 1 and 2), taste test the cholents, and vote for your favourite! Who will join the Ferber's and Bernstein's in the finals in March? May the best cholent win!

**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!

**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.

**Congregation Bnai Yeshurun's** - presents a new shiur series for women taught by Rabbi Ari Zahtz: "Bilvavi Mishkan Evneh - Developing our Spiritual Personalities". Tuesday mornings, at 10:15 am in the CBY Beis Medresh. All women are invited to join and learn!

**Lecture Series** - The final installment of Rabbi Larry Rothwachs' lecture series, "Perspectives on Jewish Parenting in an Ever Changing World," will take place this Sunday, January 14, at 8:30 p.m., at Congregation Beth Aaron. The topic will be "Stepping In and Stepping Aside: Inspiring Independence in a Scary World."

**More Torah** - This Tuesday, January 16, at 8:00 p.m., Sisterhood is presenting a shiur at Congregation Beth Aaron for women only. Michal Horowitz will speak on "Rosh Chodesh: The First National Mitzvah and the Tremendous Potential in Each Moment of Time." Michal teaches and lectures on topics related to Torah, Judaism, Jewish thought, and inspiration.

### 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@teaneckapartments.com](mailto:board@teaneckapartments.com) | [president@teaneckapartments.com](mailto:president@teaneckapartments.com) | [rabbivehudahalpert@gmail.com](mailto:rabbivehudahalpert@gmail.com)

### Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here on: 1/13, 1/20.  
He can be reached via email at [RabbiYehudaHalpert@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin) for more information.





**Zeevyah Benoff**  
Sales Associate  
NJAR CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE  
SALES AWARD - 2015  
C: 201.956.0208  
O: 201.992.3600  
[Zeevyah@LinksNJ.com](mailto: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](mailto:stuart.greenbaum@chase.com)




MORTGAGE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM



**PROGRAM BENEFITS:**  
*Exclusively for Ahavat Shalom Members*

- Waive of all bank fees (\$1490 value)
- Reimbursed appraisal fee at closing
- A dedicated mortgage professional assisting you through the entire process
- Competitive rates

\*Minimum loan amount \$300,000



**JORDAN KADRY**  
Senior Loan Originator  
NMLS #1206628

[jordan@mrcapitalgroup.com](mailto:jordan@mrcapitalgroup.com)  
p: 973.910.2215 • c: 516.456.3842  
[www.mrcapitalgroup.com](http://www.mrcapitalgroup.com)

Licensed Mortgage Banker - NY & NJ Banking Department  
Licensed Mortgage Residential Lender - NJ Department of Banking Insurance  
NMLS #92312



## Forget Me Not

The wise King Solomon notes (Koheles 7:14) that Hashem always presents us with choice and sharp contrast. For example, the *Anshei Kneses HaGedolah* (Men of the Great Assembly) prayed for His Divine assistance to remove the attraction and addiction to idolatry and their prayer was answered in the affirmative, therefore we don't have that attraction and ask ourselves how it was possible for intelligent people to subscribe to idolatry. Why was the *yetzer hara* for idolatry created to begin with? An answer is that when the first *Beis Hamikdash* was in existence, where one saw the presence of Hashem daily (see *Avos* 5:8), the lure of idolatry was necessary to give man choice and free will.

Similarly, we encounter in *Parshas Vaera* a phenomenon whereby Pharaoh experiences the plague of blood and all its severe consequences and yet, "V'lo shos libo" (*Shemos* 7:23) - he is able to ignore it and suspend the natural instinct of self-preservation such that it did not override his personal defiance of Hashem. Pharaoh has the ability to blot out the past and ignore its consequences.

In sharp contrast to Pharaoh is the leader of the Jewish people, Amram (*Rambam Hilchos Melachim* 9:1). The Shalah in this week's *parsha* tells us to note the difference in how the Torah presents the genealogy of the tribes of Reuven and Shimon in contrast to that of Levi. The former is listed (6:14) by the heads of their tribes. Regarding Levi the Torah calls attention to the names of his progeny - "Note the names of the descendents of Levi" (6:16). The tribe of Levi was not included in the Egyptian servitude. Levi foresaw with Divine inspiration the impending oppressive exile and named his three sons, Gershon, Kehas, and Merari to be ever mindful of the dangers facing the Jewish nation. Amram and Yocheved lived during this horrific era, and to always remember the plight of the rest of the tribes they named their daughter Miriam - bitter. They were "shos libo", they remembered constantly by articulating and calling their daughter's name; they shared the pain and suffering of others.

The Torah, by presenting Pharaoh's "lo shos" and Amram's usage of a constant reminder, teaches us how easy it is for man to forget. Therefore the Torah builds into the very fabric of our lives the antidote to forgetting, by legislating and implementing constant reminders. Even Moshe *Rabbeinu* was afraid of forgetting. The Ramban (*Shemos* 4:10) teaches that since the origin of Moshe's speech defect came about in a miraculous way, i.e. from the angel moving baby Moshe's hand from the gold to the coals (*Shemos Rabbah* 1:26), Moshe did not ask Hashem to cure him of this deficiency so that he would always remember Hashem's kindness. The *Sefer haChinuch* (420) in discussing the *mitzvah* to recite the Shema, our pledge of allegiance, twice daily, explains that fragile man who is easily swayed from his spiritual pursuits needs the twice daily reminder of Hashem's sovereignty. In addition, in *mitzvah* 421 in explaining the *mitzvah* of *Tefillin* again writes that man in all times is drawn to satisfy his bodily pleasures and needs, and therefore requires the daily reminder of donning *Tefillin* that protects the soul from defilement.

The Torah alludes to the Exodus from Egypt no less than fifty times to literally ingrain in the Jewish nation the thirteen principles of faith as articulated by the Rambam, each of which is found in the Exodus. Every morning and night we are reminded of His being the Creator, as exhibited by His manipulation of nature during the Exodus. We are reminded of His love for His people Israel, demonstrated by endowing millions of people with prophecy, and giving us His Torah at Sinai.

Man was created needy. Interestingly, in the *beracha* of *Boreh Nefashos* that we often recite daily, we thank Hashem for creating man and his being needy, "v'chesronon." The *beracha* continues, "for You sustain all living beings, blessed is the Life of Worlds". The Aruch haShulchan explains the closing words of the *beracha*, "blessed is the Sustainer of the worlds", to mean that He provides us in this world by giving us nourishment, and our recognition of the fact that this nourishment comes from Him acquires for us a share in the next world, hence the last word ("worlds") being plural.

Among the needs of man is the need for constant reminders. Hashem endowed man with the gift of both memory and forgetfulness. On the one hand, forgetting is oftentimes a blessing. One who experiences a tragedy, such as the loss of a child, *Rachmana litzlan*, or a spouse, could not continue their lives without the ability to somewhat forget. On the other hand, man forgets too often what is to be his focus and concern in this world. The Dubner *Maggid* highlights this idea when commenting on the verse (*Devarim* 32:18), "you forget the G-d that formed you." He notes that Hashem gives man the gift of forgetfulness and man misuses this gift by forgetting Hashem and His laws.

Each and every generation faces its own unique challenges. Our extremely open liberal society generates its crises. Just as one can appreciate the probation of *yichud* and how it safeguards Jewish moral values, one must realize that there can be an *isur yichud* with a computer. One's self control today provides no assurance for the future. "Who is the wise one? - the one that can see the future" (*Avos* 4:1). The wise one today is he who insures that the forbidden will not be seen in the future.

Finally, it is very considerate that one put their cell phone on vibrate when davening in Shul since they are respecting the needs of those around them and refraining from disturbing them. But what about themselves? As much as one wishes to ignore the vibrate, the momentary reflection of who might that be is a forbidden intrusion on our *tefillah* (see *Orach Chaim* 90.)

Hashem promises (*Vayikra* 26:42) that He will always remember His covenant and the land of Israel. We owe it to Him to reciprocate in kind and always be mindful of Him.

By: Rabbi Benjamin Yudin

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



**Zeevyah Benoff**  
Sales Associate  
NEAR 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



### MORTGAGE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM



**PROGRAM BENEFITS:**  
*Exclusively for Ahavat Shalom Members*

- Waive of all bank fees (\$1490 value)
- Reimbursed appraisal fee at closing
- A dedicated mortgage professional assisting you through the entire process
- Competitive rates

\*Minimum loan amount \$300,000



**JORDAN KADRY**  
Senior Loan Originator  
NMLS #1206628  
jordan@mrcapitalgroup.com  
p: 973.910.2215 • c: 516.456.3842  
www.mrcapitalgroup.com

Licensed Mortgage Banker - NY & NJ Banking Departments  
Licensed Mortgage Residential Lender - NJ Department of Banking Insurance  
NMLS #120628