



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

Volume: 18, Issue: 38 | April 20-21, 2018

Iyar 6
Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



Friday, April 20	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:00 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:23 PM
Shabbat, April 21	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:32 AM
Mincha / Shalosh Seudot:	6:50 PM
Shkiya:	7:42 PM
Maariv:	8:20 PM
Shabbat Ends:	8:25 PM
Next Friday, April 27	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:00 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:30 PM

Weather Report: Friday night: 36°, Clear Shabbat day: 58°, Sunshine and Breezy

Mazel Tov - Shayna and Noam Itzhak on the birth of a baby girl!

Insights of the IDF - Shalosh Seudot Like No Other - In commemoration of Yom Hazikaron and celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut and Yom Yerushalayim, Congregation Ahavat Shalom invites you to special Shalosh Seudot featuring Alex Huberman, a 7th Special Forces Combat Medic. Alex will speak about his experience serving in the IDF and what it means to represent Jews in the Diaspora. After hearing from Alex, the floor will be opened to a Q&A session. Men and women are encouraged to attend. If you would like to co-sponsor, please reach out to a Board member. Please note the earlier mincha time - 6:50 PM - to accommodate the special Shalosh Seudot. Shalosh Seudot will begin at approximately 7:05 PM and will take place in the small lunchroom downstairs.



Thank you to our sponsors (thus far):

- Janna and Yosef Chai Klein
- Estee and Steven Lowinger
- Samantha and Ben Locke
- Dina and Michell Guzelgul

Ahavat Shalom Shabbat Gemara Chabura - Ahavat Shalom's men's Gemara Chabura will continue on Shabbat morning at 8:30 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.

Parent & Me - Kids 0-2 (too young for groups). The program will take place in Room 6 from 10:00 A.M. until the end of davening. Come sing songs, play with toys and schmooze with other parents. Please provide your own snacks and be sensitive to nut allergies. Hope to see you there! (Moms and Dads welcome!)

Shavuot is around the corner - Ahavat Shalom is in the midst of planning a stellar Shavuot program. As everyone plans their respective Yom Tov and Shabbat plans - it is a 3-day Yom Tov this year - consider sticking around! Stay tuned for a sneak peek at the awesome programming we have in store!

Ahavat Shalom Sisterhood - is actively recruiting members to join their ranks! Please reach out to the Board if you are interested in volunteering for the Sisterhood, or any of our other committees - Fundraising, Chesed or Religious!

Suburban Torah Shabbaton - You drank our wine, now it's time to drink the Kool-Aid! Experience Livingston for Shabbat at our Discover Suburban Torah Shabbaton! April 27-28, 2018. Sign up at www.suburbantorah.org/sha

Teaneck Community Mother-Daughter Bat Mitzvah Trip to Israel! Led by Rebbetzin Michal Zahtz of Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, November 18-24, 2018. Highlights include: Unique chessed opportunities, Shabbat at Emunah Children's Home in Afula, Jerusalem scavenger hunt, Dialogue in the Dark, Jeeping, Bat mitzvah program with girls from Afula 4 Nights at the Dan Panorama; 1 Night at Kibbutz Lavi. Land Package \$1,950/per person.

To register visit www.emunah.org/teaneck-bat-mitzvah-mission. For more information please contact Ronnie Faber ronnie@emunah.org or Michal Zahtz mzahltz@gmail.com

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here this week, 4:21.

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 9:45am - 11:00am. 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 Committees

If you or anyone you know has moved in recently or knows somebody moving in, let Yosef Chai Klein or Yael Wine know! Check out ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin for more information.



Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2017-2018

President: Ben Wine **Vice Presidents:** Alex Daitech | Ariel Kirshenbaum | Yosef Chai Klein | 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 | president@teaneckapartments.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



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
FM Home Loans, LLC
(516) 456-3842
jkadry@fmm.com
NMLS ID# 1206628





Triple Covering

Tzaraas can manifest itself either on the body, on the clothing, or on the walls of the home. The *Medrash*, cited by the *Daas Zekeinim M'Baalei Tosfos* as well as the *Rambam (Hilchos TumaasTzaraas)*, explains that these three possible kinds of *tzaraas* are interrelated. They represent a progression of severity that correspond to three different points on the timeline of spiritual decay. At first, Hashem inflicts our homes with *tzaraas*, in order to encourage us to improve. However, that is just a cautionary shot across the bow. If we heed Hashem's message and see the error of our ways, the *tzaraas* on the walls of our home will dissipate and not spread any further. However, if we continue down the same sinful trajectory then Hashem will send *tzaraas* again, this time not to our home but to our clothing, which is more direct and difficult to ignore. If we somehow manage to overlook this warning as well, then the *tzaraas* will appear on our skin itself, presenting an unmistakable and immediate calamity that demands our undivided attention.

The *Kli Yakar* observes that the three areas wherein *tzaraas* can materialize are all coverings. Our skin covers our bodies which is in turn covered by our clothing all of which are housed inside of our home. The *Megaleh Amukos* claims that the *tzaraas* found on these three coverings corresponds to the corruption of the three *mitzvos* which we use to cover ourselves on a daily basis. The Gemara (*Menachos* 43b) states that Hashem surrounded us with *mitzvos* in order to deter us from sinning. The *tefillin* which covers our heads and arms, the *tzitzis* which adorn our garments, and the *mezuzah* which is placed on the outside of our home, are all meant to serve as a protective covering and barrier to sin. The *tefillin* protect our bodies, the *tzitzis* cover our clothing, and the *mezuzah* secures our home. Therefore, when one develops *tzaraas* as a result of habitual sinning, it is appropriate and instructive that the *tzaraas* manifest itself specifically on one of these three coverings, each of which is safeguarded by a different *mitzvah*, which was willfully disregarded somewhere along the way.

In addition, the Gemara (*Arachin* 15b) states that one of the specific sins that most often precipitates an episode of *tzaraas* is *lashon hara*, evil and harmful speech. The Gemara continues and explains that in order to protect us from speaking *lashon hara*, Hashem surrounded our tongue with three covering or obstacles to sin. The tongue is positioned horizontally in a resting position, as opposed to the other limbs of the body which are vertical and poised to act. In addition, the tongue is further shielded by a wall of teeth, which is then enclosed within our lips that can be completely sealed. Therefore, it should not be surprising that there are also three possible forms of *tzaraas* that can contaminate the individual who presumably spoke *lashon hara* by breaching the three defensive measures protecting the tongue, and that part of his rehabilitation should include being exiled from all of the three encampments and settlements which encircle and protect the *Mishkan* (see *Vayikra* 13, 46).

The fact that our tongue and mouth are so heavily fortified emphasizes the importance of our speech and indicates the potential our mouths have to be a vehicle for *kedushah* and holiness. In a certain sense, our tongue, which is thrice secured, is comparable only to the holy Ark which was also blanketed beneath three protective layers while traveling, consisting of the *paroches*, the skin of a *tachash*, and a cloth dyed with *techeiles* (see *Bamidbar* 4, 5-6). Rav Yisrael Salanter explains that *Parshas Shemini*, which speaks about forbidden foods, is followed by *Parshas Tazriaand Metzora* which deals with the consequences of speaking *lashon hara*, in order to teach us that we must be just as careful about what goes in our mouth as what comes out of our mouth. Unfortunately, often, even those people who would never dream of eating something which is prohibited have no qualms about speaking *lashon hara*. Perhaps for this reason, while often a double seal is sufficient to ensure that food is kosher, our tongue and our speech require a triple covering.

By: Rabbi Daniel Stein

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