



# Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS NEWSLETTER  
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Achrei Mot - Kedoshim

Volume: 18, Issue: 39 | April 27-28, 2018

Iyyar 13

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

## Shabbat Times



Friday, April 27	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:00 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:30 PM
Shabbat, April 28	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:26 AM
Mincha / Shalosh Seudot:	7:15 PM
Shkiya:	7:49 PM
Maariv:	8:28 PM
Shabbat Ends:	8:33 PM
Next Friday, May 4	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:00 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:37 PM

**Weather Report:** Friday night: 48°, Clear      Shabbat day: 69°, Partly sunny and chance of rain in the afternoon

**Mazel Tov** - Jordana, Avi and Talia on the birth of baby girl Ella!

**Ahavat Shalom Shabbat Gemara Chabura** - Ahavat Shalom's men's Gemara Chabura will continue on Shabbat morning at 8:30 AM in the shul. Special guest leader this week: Rabbi Jared Anstandig! There is no required level of Gemara knowledge. For more information, please contact Ariel Kirshenbaum at [akirshenbaum3@gmail.com](mailto:akirshenbaum3@gmail.com).

**Parent & Me** - Will NOT be taking place this week. We look forward to seeing you all next week.

**Thank you** - to last week's Shalosh Seudot sponsors:

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

Thank you as well to all that came out to Shalosh Seudot. Insights of the IDF was a huge success, and we look forward to continuing to provide enhanced Shalosh Seudot opportunities for the community!

## Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will not be here this week: 4/28.

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 9:45am - 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.

## Chessed 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](http://ahavatshalomteaneck.com/movingin) for more information.



**Newsletter Advertising Space** - Congregation Ahavat Shalom will once again be auctioning off the advertising space in our weekly newsletter, the Achdus Newsletter, for the 12 month period from June 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019. If you have any questions, please reach out to the Board.

**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...can anyone say ICE CREAM SUNDA(E)Y?!

**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, Chessed or Religious!

**Congregation Bnai Yeshurun's Adult Education & Beis Medrash Committees presents** - A scholar in Residence Shabbat with Rav Judah Mischel, Executive Director of Camp HASC & founder of Tzama Nafshi. May 4-5, 2018 - Parshat Emor. Friday Night: Oneg Shabbat 9:30 pm at the home of Jordana & Steven Becker, 629 W. Englewood Ave. Divrei Torah & Niggunim and "Parshas Emor: The Stories We Tell". Shabbat morning: Teen Minyan drasha: "The Art of Bageling: How to Pick a Jew Out of the Crowd". Following davening in the 9:15 am minyan in the Old Main Shul (approx. 11:10 am): "From Berlin to Bergen County: What Kohanim Can Teach Us About Jewish Education". Shabbat afternoon, 6:50 pm New Main Shul: "Between Lag BaOmer & Shavuot: Cultivating Heartfulness".

**In commemoration of the first yahrzeit of Joseph Appel, a"h** - Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, and the Appel Family, in partnership with Jewish Journeys Invite you to an evening of inspiration with Charlie Harary, world renowned speaker and author "Climbing the Mountain: How Sefiras HaOmer Can Change Your Life". Monday, May 14, 2018 7:45 pm - Lecture 9:00 pm - Book Sale & Signing of his new book "Unlocking Greatness: The Unexpected Journey from the Life You Have to the Life You Want" To join as a sponsor in memory of Joe Appel please contact [office@bnaiyeshurun.org](mailto:office@bnaiyeshurun.org) or 201.836.8916.

**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](http://www.emunah.org/teaneck-bat-mitzvah-mission). For more information please contact Ronnie Faber [ronnie@emunah.org](mailto:ronnie@emunah.org) or Michal Zahtz [mzazhtz@gmail.com](mailto:mzazhtz@gmail.com)

## Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2017-2018

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

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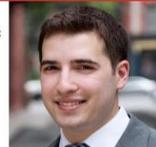
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A Good Heart

At the beginning of *Parshas Acharei Mos*, the Torah states that the *Kohen Gadol* may not come into the *Kodesh Hakodoshim* except when doing the *avodah* on Yom Kippur. "Speak to Aaron your brother - he shall not come at all times into the *Kodesh*. (16:2)" Since the *posuk* addresses Aaron *Hakohen*, it would seem that this *halacha* applied not only to *Kohanim Gedolim* throughout the generations, but even to Aaron himself. However, the *Vilna Gaon* suggested based on a Midrash that as long as Aaron followed the exact order of the *avodah* of Yom Kippur, he was permitted to enter the *Kodesh Hakodoshim* any day of the year. That is what the *posuk* means when it says, "With this shall Aaron come to the *Kodesh*, with a bull...and a ram..." (16:3) - namely, that if Aaron performed the same *avodah* that he did on Yom Kippur, he was always allowed to enter the *Kodesh Hakodoshim*. But all subsequent *Kohanim Gedolim* did not share the same privilege. They were allowed to enter the *Kodesh Hakodoshim* only on Yom Kippur. (see *Meshech Chochmah* who interprets the *Vilna Gaon's* comment differently) What was so special about Aaron that he was permitted to enter the *Kodesh Hakodoshim* any day of the year?

When Hashem first asks Moshe *Rabbeinu* to become the leader of *Klal Yisrael*, Moshe hesitates. He begs Hashem, "Please send through whomever you will send. (*Shemos* 4:13)" Rashi explains that Moshe was concerned that it would be insulting to his older brother Aaron if he became the leader. Hashem responds that Aaron will join Moshe in his mission, and moreover, "Behold he is going out to meet you, and when he sees you he will rejoice in his heart. (*Shemos* 4:14)" Rashi quotes from the Midrash that Hashem was telling Moshe, "It is not as you think, that Aaron will resent you because you are becoming the leader, but rather he will feel happy for you in his heart." The Midrash concludes that for this heartfelt rejoicing, Aaron merited to become the *Kohen Gadol* who wears the *choshen* which is placed over the heart.

Aaron was *samei'ach b'chelko* - he was satisfied and content with his own portion. He was not jealous of his brother Moshe. To the contrary, he felt happy for him, with his full heart. The Mishna (*Avos* 2:9) says that Reb Yochanan *ben Zakkai* asked his *talmidim* to go figure out what is most important character trait. Each one returned with a different response. Reb Elazar ben Arach suggested that the best *middah* is *lev tov* - a good heart - and the Mishna concludes that Reb Yochanan *ben Zakkai* agreed with him. Why is a good heart the most important *middah*? The Rambam (on the *mishna* there) explains that all character traits are developed in the heart, so a good heart will lead a person to perfection in all of his *middos*. *Rabbeinu Yona* elaborates that if one has a good heart "all of his character traits will be proper, his attitudes will be balanced, and as a result, he will be *samei'ach b'chelko*."

It is the *middah* of *lev tov* that leads a person to be *samei'ach b'chelko*. Someone who has a good heart is not motivated by self-interest. His sole desire is to promote the agenda of the *Ribbono Shel Olam* and to increase *kvod shamayim* in the world. All he wants is that each individual should achieve his full potential and be able to serve *Hakodosh Boruch Hu* in the best possible way. Such a person will naturally be *samei'ach b'chelko* - he will be happy with his portion in life - because the key for him is not that he achieve a position of prominence, but rather that the will of the *Ribbono Shel Olam* should be fulfilled.

Aaron *Hakohen* was that kind of person. He had a *lev tov*. He deeply cared about each individual. That is why he was *rodeif shalom* (*Avos* 1:12) - he pursued peace - even though initially he was resented and vilified by those who wished to continue arguing (see *Maseches Kallah Rabasi* 3). Aaron's concern for peace was more important to him than dignity and honor. It is not surprising that Aaron felt content and happy when his brother Moshe became the leader of *Klal Yisrael* because Aaron was never concerned about himself; his goal was always to advance *Hakodosh Boruch Hu's* agenda. So it did not matter to him who played a more prominent role. The key was simply that the mission should be accomplished.

It is precisely for this reason that Aaron was chosen to become the *Kohen Gadol* and to wear the *choshen* on his heart because the *Kohen Gadol* represents all of *Klal Yisrael* in the *Beis HaMikdash*. Only someone who is humble and self-less and has a heartfelt love for every Jew can serve as *Kohen Gadol*. Aaron was the paradigm of such a personality. It was Aaron's *lev tov* that gave him the merit to wear the *choshen* on his heart. Perhaps this is why Aaron was also given the special privilege to enter the *Kodesh Hakodoshim* any day of the year because Aaron was greater than any other *Kohen Gadol* in history. His humility, his lowly spirit, and his *lev tov* were something extra-special. A person with such *middos* draws the *Shechina* closer to him. As the *navi* Yeshaya proclaims, "So said the exalted and uplifted One...I dwell in exaltedness and holiness, but I am with the *dakah u'shfal ruach* - the despondent and the lowly of spirit. (*Yeshaya* 57:15)" The *Shechina* seeks out those who are humble and unassuming. It attaches itself to individuals who are modest and self-effacing. That is why Aaron, the quintessential *sh'fal ruach*, was always welcome in the *Kodesh Hakodoshim*.

Aaron *Hakohen* was unique. But his attitude is a model for every Jew. The goal of an *eved Hashem* should never be to promote himself or his personal agenda. It is when we act with humility and a *lev tov* that we attract the *Shechina* and we raise ourselves to a higher level.

By: Rabbi Eliakim Koenigsberg

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