



Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS
NEWSLETTER
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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

Parshat Chukat

Volume: 18, Issue: 47 | June 22-23, 2018

Tammuz 10

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

Shabbat Times



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|--------------------------|---------|
| Friday, June 22 | |
| Mincha/Maariv: | 7:15 PM |
| Candle Lighting: | 8:13 PM |
| Shabbat, June 23 | |
| Shacharit: | 9:00 AM |
| Kriyat Shema: | 9:11 AM |
| Mincha / Shalosh Seudot: | 8:00 PM |
| Shkiya: | 8:32 PM |
| Maariv: | 9:17 PM |
| Shabbat Ends: | 9:22 PM |
| Next Friday, June 29 | |
| Mincha/Maariv: | 7:15 PM |
| Candle Lighting: | 8:13 PM |

Weather Report: Friday night: 71°, Cloudy

Shabbat day: 68°, Scattered thunderstorms

Meet David Granovitz! David Granovitz moved into the community this past January. He is an Applications Developer for RWJ Barnabus. In high school, David earned the nickname "Yellow" after showing up to school wearing a bright yellow shirt to go with his blonde hair. After high school, David served as a chaval in the IDF. In his spare time, David can be found glued to the latest episode of *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt*.

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!) Just a reminder to please help clean up when you leave.

Looking to buy a home? Are you looking to buy a home in the next two years? Please join Ahavat Shalom this Sunday, June 24th at 9:30 AM at TABC for a First Time Home Buyers' seminar. An exclusive event providing potential home buyers with an in-depth look at home buying that is designed to help plan for the unexpected and avoid many pitfalls first-time buyers encounter. The seminar will feature Jordan (Yishai) Kadry - Mortgage Banker, FM Home Loans, Daniel Lorch - Realtor, Keller Williams, Yael Kasnett - Realtor, Friedberg, David Joyandeh - Attorney, Buckalew Frizzell & Crevina LLP and Michael Chapman - Attorney, The Law Offices of Louis B. Chapman.



Take me out to the Ball Game! Glatt Express is sponsoring Jewish Heritage Day at the Rockland Boulders game on June 24, 2018. Glatt Express has made free tickets available to the Ahavat Shalom community! For tickets, please fill out a request form at www.glattexpress.com/baseball/

Ahavat Shalom Board 2018-2019 - Voting is open for the 2018-2019 Ahavat Shalom Board! Please follow the link at <http://www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com/20182019boardelections> or visit the shul website to exercise your civic duty. Voting will close on Sunday, June 24, 2018 at 11:59 PM.

Graduation Celebration Kiddush! The Graduation Celebration Kiddush will take place next Shabbat, June 30, 2018 right after davening! If you want to celebrate a graduation, birthday, anniversary, or any other special occasion, please reach out to the Board to sponsor at board@teaneckapartments.com!

Groups over the Summer - There will be no groups this Shabbat (other than Parent & Me). We are trying to gauge interest in groups over the summer. Please reach out to Ben at presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com if you are interested.

Chesed Committee - The Chesed Committee's Community Resource Initiative is open for business! If there is anyone in need of professional services, please reach out to chesed@teaneckapartments.com. Thanks to the generous members of our community, we have set up a professional network to assist you with your professional needs. All correspondence will remain virtually anonymous. Available services include financial planning, tax returns and advice, and therapy/counseling and more.

Summer Pottery Classes - CBY BNOT Summer Pottery Class! A 6-session summer pottery class will be given by Michael Preston (pottery teacher at Teaneck Rodda Center, JCC, Teaneck Community Charter School, Teaneck Sports and Arts, etc.). This year we will be offering 2 classes one on Tuesday nights & one on Wednesday nights. There are only 10 spots in each class and they will ONLY be held with receipt of payment. Tuesday classes: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 & Aug. 7; Wednesday classes: July 11, 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8, & 15 at 8:00 - 10:00 pm - Congregation Bnai Yeshurun, Lower Level Classrooms 1-3. Class fee \$100. Open to men & women. To register please visit www.bnaiveshurun.org/events. For more information contact Sari Sheinfeld at TheSheinfelds@gmail.com

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

Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 6/23, 6:30, 77.

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

There will be no groups this week as we gauge interest in groups over the summer. Please reach out to Ben at presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com if you are interested. Have a wonderful Shabbat!

Chesed Committee

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.



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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
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Dying to Learn

The ritual impurity of a corpse is introduced with the words, "This is the Torah: when a man dies in a tent, anyone entering the tent and anything in the tent shall be unclean for seven days" (*Bamidbar* 19:14). The Gemara (*Berachos* 63b) infers from the unnecessary use of the word "Torah" in this context that matters of Torah can only be retained by a person who is willing to figuratively "kill" themselves in order to acquire it. The Chafetz Chaim suggests that a person has to metaphorically "kill" themselves in the sense that all extraneous disturbances and interruptions must be tuned out while learning Torah. In a similar manner in which the deceased are unable to participate in everyday activities, we must carve out times in our schedules which are free from avoidable disruptions. This is critical because generally the *mitzvah* to learn Torah is circumscribed to the hours of the day which are otherwise unoccupied by our daily responsibilities (see *Kovetz Shiurim* vol. 2 section 19 and *Birkas Shmuel, Kiddushin*, section 27 part 4.) Therefore, part of the obligation to learn Torah inevitably requires us to do our best to restrict our daily activities to specific parts of the day and cordon off other times to be dedicated solely to Torah study.

The reference to *talmud Torah* in this context also indicates that in order to learn Torah successfully we must be consumed with the learning of Torah even to the point of utter exhaustion. The Gemara (*Shabbos* 83b) derives from the word "Torah" in this *pasuk*, "One should never prevent himself from attending the *beis medrash* or from engaging in matters of Torah, even at the moment of death." How is it possible to learn Torah even at the moment of death? (Rav Moshe Shmuel Shapiro actually sees this as the source for the custom to recite *shema* prior to passing.) Rav Moshe Wolfson (*Emunas Itecha*) explains that the Gemara is instructing us to learn Torah even during those times in our life when we feel emotionally spent and physically drained, when we are empty of energy and void of desire. In fact, it is the learning that we do when we are fatigued that is arguably the most transformative. The *pasuk* states "In addition my wisdom remained with me" (*Koheles* 2:9.) The Hebrew word used here for "in addition" - "*af*" - also means "anger." This leads the *Yalkut Shimoni* (section 968) to conclude that it is specifically the Torah which is studied during times of "anger" or duress, when life is most challenging, that will leave an indelible impression upon us.

However, when we are tired and worn out our ability to retain information is usually dramatically impaired. How can we be productive when we are exhausted? Moreover, why should the Torah that we learn when we are depleted and depressed be the most formidable and memorable? Rav Shach (*Avi Ezri on Nashim*) answers that Torah is a supernatural discipline, an interaction with the Divine, which functions in its own dimension and by its own set of rules. When enormous effort is exhibited in an attempt to acquire Torah knowledge, Hashem gifts wisdom to the recipient even in a fashion that exceeds our normal human limitations. The Gemara (*Megillah* 6b) states, "If a person says to you: I have labored and I have found success, believe him." If a person has labored sufficiently then he has triumphed all on his own. Why does the Gemara insist on describing his accomplishment as something which is "found" or stumbled upon? The Chiddushei Harim explains that Torah knowledge is never attained naturally and independently but only through Divine benevolence triggered by a sincere and sustained effort.

It is for this reason that toiling in Torah is described as an inexplicable "statute", or "*chok*." The word "Torah" also appears in *Parshas Chukas* in connection with the purification process of the red heifer, the *parah adumah*, as the *pasuk* states, "This is the statute of the Torah which Hashem commanded" (*Bamidbar* 19:2.) *Parah adumah* is the classical enigmatic *chok*, for the very same ashes that purify the defiled also defile the pure. Learning Torah is mentioned in connection with the *chok* of *parah adumah*, because the act of learning Torah is itself a *chok* as well. *Parshas Bechukosai* begins, "You should follow My statutes" (*Vayikra* 26:3), which *Rashi* interprets as "you should study the Torah laboriously." What is so perplexing about the activity of learning Torah that it deserves to be labeled as a *chok*? The Chasam Sofer explains that laboring in Torah is classified as a *chok* because while there are exceptionally intelligent individuals who can master the natural disciplines quickly and with ease, it is absolutely axiomatic that Torah knowledge can only be attained through a demonstration of great determination and excessive toil, which then prompts a measure of Divine intervention.

In fact, all of the letters of the *aleph beis* are found in the blessings of *Parshas Bechukosai* with the exception of the letter *samech*, which has the numerical value of sixty. The Rokeach claims that this is an allusion to the sixty *masechtos* of *shas*, because as opposed to earthly pursuits and prosperity, Torah knowledge can only be attained through personal effort and exertion, and not by means of a great intellect, godsend, or benediction alone. The Steipler Gaon once responded to a student, "you must know that becoming great in Torah does not come from blessings. There is only one way to accomplish success in learning, and that is to distance yourself from wasting time and to dedicate every moment to Torah learning." While we should pray for assistance in retaining Torah knowledge, there is no substitute or shortcut for the hard work that is required. If we exert ourselves fully and allocate time for learning Torah properly, may Hashem bestow upon us a deep understanding of Torah, and may we enjoy the full spectrum of the blessings the Torah has to offer.

By: Rabbi Daniel Stein

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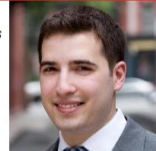
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