



# Congregation Ahavat Shalom

The ACHDUS  
NEWSLETTER  
www.ahavatshalomteaneck.com

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Parshat Vaetchanan

Volume: 18, Issue: 52 | July 27-28, 2018

Av 16

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert

## Shabbat Times



Friday, July 27	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:59 PM
Shabbat, July 28	
Shacharit:	9:00 AM
Kriyat Shema:	9:25 AM
Mincha / Shalosh	
Seudot:	7:45 PM
Shkiya:	8:16 PM
Maariv:	8:58 PM
Havdalah:	9:03 PM
Next Friday, August 3	
Mincha/Maariv:	7:15 PM
Candle Lighting:	7:52 PM

**Weather Report:** Friday night: 89°, P.M. T-Storm in spots Shabbat day: 88°, partly cloudy

**Mazel tov** - to Naomi and Moshe Gottesfeld on the birth of a baby boy!

**Tzeitchem L'Shalom** - to Lisa and Chaim Goldfeiz who are moving to Pittsburgh!

**Welcome** - to Sara and Maor Shoshana who moved into Terrace Circle!

**Thank you** to the outgoing Ahavat Shalom Board of 2017-2018! This year saw so many wonderful changes and events, and we look forward to building off of last year's successes. Thank you to the following individuals who served with such commitment, as well as to their spouses for making their service possible:

Eli Baum  
Alex Daitch  
Adam Ehrenreich  
Yonatan Isser  
Ariel Kirshenbaum  
Melissa Kirshenbaum  
Yosef Chai Klein  
Benjy Lebowitz  
Samantha Locke  
Steven Lowinger  
Evan Rottenstreich  
Dani Weinberger  
Ben Wine

**There will be no groups this week. If you know anyone who is ready and willing to lead groups over the summer, please reach out to Ben at [presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com](mailto:presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com).**

**Rosh Hashana** - is a little under 2 months away, but we are trying to determine if there will be a minyan at Ahavat Shalom this year. If you are interested in staying around for Rosh Hashana, please send an email to Ben at [presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com](mailto:presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com) so we can start to plan accordingly.

**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](mailto: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, therapy/counseling and more.

**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 chesed 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 [mzahztz@gmail.com](mailto:mzahztz@gmail.com)

## Rabbi Halpert's Availability

Rabbi Yehuda Halpert will be here: 7/28. 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

**There will be no groups this week. If you know anyone who is ready and willing to lead groups over the summer, please reach out to Ben at [presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com](mailto:presidentahavatshalom@gmail.com).**

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



## Congregation Ahavat Shalom Board Members 2017-2018

**President:** Ben Wine **Vice Presidents:** Alex Daitch | 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.

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## MORTGAGE ADVANTAGE PROGRAM



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\*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.



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**Tu b'Av: Chessed - A Divine Boomerang**

This Shabbos represents the resiliency of the Jewish nation. Six days ago, we sat on the floor as mourners, engulfed by despondency and despair, and today enveloped in an atmosphere of optimism. The excitement comes not only from the *parsha* of *Vaeschanan* with its many basic *mitzvos* of *talmud Torah*, *tefillin*, *mezuzah*, and the *Aseres Hadibros*, as well as the prohibition against intermarriage. The optimism is not only from the *haftorah* where the *navi* Yeshaya promises us that as we were persecuted most severely, so will we be comforted. The additional optimism comes from today being *Tu b'Av*, the fifteenth day of the month of Av. The Talmud at the end of *Taanis* and *Bava Basra* (125a-125b) enumerates six phenomena that occurred on this day that make its significance and joy comparable to that of *Yom Kippur*.

The last factor contributing to the uniqueness of this day is that it marked the culmination of bringing the wood for the fire on the *mizbeach*. The Torah (*Vayikra* 6:6) legislates that there is to be an *ish tamid* - a perpetual fire ablaze on the altar. The Talmud (*Yuma* 21b) informs us that in actuality there were three fires on the *mizbeach*: The largest one was to consume the meat sacrifices, the second largest fire was to provide the coals with which to light and offer the incense on the golden altar in the *heichal*, and the third one was to fulfill the Divine directive of having the perpetual fire that should not be extinguished.

There is a recurring metaphysical theme throughout many of the *mitzvos* according to the understanding of the *Sefer HaChinuch*. His basic thesis is that *chesed* to one's fellow man and giving to Hashem is in reality a boomerang and ultimately benefits the donor. Allow me to explain. Man, by his very nature, is limited both materialistically and spiritually. His actions are therefore limited as well. The concept of a *bracha* is to break through the limits of man's actions by giving and attributing a portion to Hashem, which then limitless just like its Master is, thereby allowing *bracha* to settle on its object and expand limitlessly. Thus, when the Jewish nation provides the *lechem hapanim* weekly, fulfilling, "on the Table shall you place show-bread before Me always" (*Shemos*25:30), our giving and offering Him bread allows Him to bless our bread and sustenance (see *Chinuch*, *mitzvah* 97.)

Interestingly, the *Chinuch* (*mitzvah* 132), explaining the significance of our kindling a fire on the altar even though in the time of the first *Beis HaMikdash* fire miraculously descended from Heaven, says that man is comprised of four elements: dust, water, wind, and fire. The wood cut between Nisan and Tu b'Av is dried by the intense heat of the sun, preventing the wood from becoming wormy and thus providing the best flammable material. Once the wood has been severed, it goes from *tzomeach* - that which grows, to *domeim* - a lifeless object, and as Hashem accepts this wood and allows it to fuel the *mizbeach*, He then takes our *domeim* - lifeless element, the dust within us, and lights our fire. As the burning fire on the altar is beautiful to see and practical, so too does He take our personal fire, our drive for life, and calibrates it. Too much fire in man will consume him, anger him constantly and will not allow him to interact patiently and harmoniously with others. Too little fire will leave man without principles, without determination, a wimp. Thus our *hiddur mitzvah* which is accomplished by finishing this *mitzvah* by Tu b'Av to ensure the highest quality wood, gains us His blessings in return.

There is a moving *Yalkut Shimoni* at the very end of *V'zos Habracha* that describes Moshe leaving the *mitzvah* of *bizuy Mitzrayim* (gathering the wealth of Egypt), and for three days and three nights searching for the bones of Yosef. Pharaoh's advisors told him that if he doesn't want the Israelites to leave he should hide the bones of Yosef since they pledged not to leave without his remains, and they will surely be loyal to their pledge! Exhausted, Moshe meets Serach the daughter of Asher. Seeing Moshe totally fatigued and inquiring why, she then takes him to the shores of the Nile, where Yosef had been buried deep in the waters in a heavy casket to ensure that the Jewish nation would not leave. The rest is history. Moshe prays and Hashem delivers, but only after Moshe extends his greatest effort in this project. The lesson is clear: we have to put in our maximum effort and He will respond in kind.

In the *Nachem* prayer we recited on Tisha b'Av we conclude, "for You, Hashem, consumed her, and with fire You will rebuild her." I'd like to suggest that since we, the Jewish nation, took the *Beis HaMikdash* for granted and did not bring our fire/enthusiasm to the *Beis Hamikdash*, it became a lifeless shell lacking the soul and fire of the Jewish people, and therefore it was consumed with natural fire. We pray that in the near future, in the merit of our studying and appreciating the *korban eitzim* (the wood donations) and our pining and longing to fulfill this *mitzvah* as well as all other *mitzvos* related to the *Beis HaMikdash*, this fire and enthusiasm will speedily cause the rebuilding of the third *Beis HaMikdash* in our days.

By: Rabbi Benjamin Yudin

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