

Congregation Etz Chaim



74 Billings Street, Sharon, Massachusetts 02067
www.etzchaimsharon.com
(781) 784-7204

Treasurer: George Monat
Secretary: Janis Monat
Member at Large: Robert Dell
Member at Large: Michael Ferber
Member at Large: Rabbi Chuni Rappoport

Synagogue
Member



Parasha Vayeishev

Shabbos Mevorchim

23rd of Kislev

Lik ner 3:54 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:21 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:07 AM

Mincha 3:55 PM

Shabbos ends 4:59/5:24 PM

UNFORTUNATELY, NO SHABBOS SERVICES

Shabbos Day at YI

Mincha 3:55 PM

Ma'ariv 4:55 PM

Havdala 5:00 PM

Weekday Young Israel

Mincha/Ma'ariv 3:55 PM

(T. & Th. Maariv) 9:00 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Shabbos ends 5:00 PM

Maariv 5:15 PM

Sunday at Chabad

Mo. – Th.

Maariv 7:00 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is this Sun, 12-14

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHMIRAS HALASHON class: M. & Th. 9:15 a.m.

Please contact Janis Monat: jbmonat@aol.com for the link.

DAF YOMI WEEKDAY ZOOM SCHEDULE

Via Zoom: Mon - Th 7:00 pm and Tu & Th 7:30 am

Meeting ID: 822 979 966

Password: 727190

DAF YOMI LIVE SCHEDULE:

Shabbos mornings at shul, 8:00 a.m., one hour before shacharis;

Sunday mornings at shul, 7:00 a.m., one hour before shacharis.

Contact Melvyn Huff

(781) 784-6608) or

melvynhuff@comcast.net for more information

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RABBI REISMAN

Watch as the **Book of Daniel** is brought to life with Rabbi Yisrael Reisman's famous thought-provoking *Navi class*, taking place every Saturday night at Congregation Etz Chaim. Beginning time is 7:30 p.m.
All are welcome!

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

Our next read is **By Any Other Name** by Jodi Picoult. Copies are on hold at the Circulation Desk at the Sharon Public Library under the name "Congregation Etz Chaim Book Club." We shall meet to discuss it on **Monday, January 5th at 7 p.m.** via Zoom.

BOARD MEETING

Etz Chaim's next board meeting will be Wednesday, **January 7 at 6:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please contact Janis Monat jmonat@aol.com for the link. All are WELCOME!

PRAYERS FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

May Hashem hear our prayers for **ALL** the deceased hostages to be returned now! **Staff Sgt. Ran Gvili is the last deceased hostage still held by Hamas.** He is a 24-year-old Israel Police Special Patrol Unit (Yasam) volunteer from Meitar in southern Israel who **rescued roughly 100 Nova Music Festival survivors and killed 14 Hamas terrorists** during the battle near Alumim. Then **he was abducted and murdered.** [AJC is running this ad in Times Square so the world will know that Hamas is still holding Ran's body hostage.](#) May the people of Israel know no more war! **Am Yisrael Chai** 🇮🇱

REFUAH SHELAIMA

We continue to pray for the health of Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; George Monat's sister-in-law, Shayna Baila bas Rachel; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bat Rachel; Len Gerber's brother, Yosef ben Chaya; and Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza.

May HaShem help **each one** to have a full and speedy recovery!

THOUGHTS on parasha Vayeishev

By Janis Monat

"Vayeishev" and he settled. Yaakov has returned to Hebron with his family at the end of 22 years of being away.

17 years after that we have Yakov's 11th son, Yosef "settling", but in many "places". From his father's home to the "bor", the pit his brothers threw him into, to the caravan traveling to Egypt, to Potiphar's home, to the "pit" again from a false accusation of Potiphar's wife, to interpreting Paroh's servants' dreams, and lastly to Pharaoh's royal palace.

"Places" can also be positions in life: the most favored son of father, Yaakov; a hated brother of his older brothers, a responsible administrator of Potiphar's home, a well liked and competent prisoner manager, a dream interpreter, and finally second in command to Pharaoh, the rescuer of the whole Middle East facing a famine.

In our parasha, ch. 37:29-30, Reuben returns and finds the pit empty, tearing his garments thinking his brothers took Yosef out and killed him. Upon Yaakov being shown the blood-soaked special coat he had made for Yosef, he too, in chapter 37:33-34, tears his garments. 3,500 years later I, too, ripped the material of my shirt. It's been a year that this parasha was during the week of my mother's funeral, Rivka Petal bas Yitzchak, Ruth Pauline Brainin. I dedicate this parasha note to her life and her neshama.

What was the 17-year-old Yosef **seeking** when he was lost and trying to find his brothers? Inclusion? Acceptance? Twenty-two years later, what made him reveal himself to his older brothers? A connection with them? Yehuda's passionate words, "Our father has already lost one son. His heart will break if he loses another," ch. 44:19 is what brought Yosef to reveal his identity. He was hearing and feeling brother Yehuda's care for their father, and seeing Yehuda take responsibility for the welfare of his younger brother, Binyamin, to not become a captive; unlike the Yehuda of old who suggested Yosef be sold into slavery. Now he was taking action to prevent Binyamin from becoming a prisoner. The Hebrew term, "[Hashavas Aveidah](#) (השבת אבדה)", the returning of lost property, cruelly took place when the brothers "returned" Yosef's coat dripping in the blood of a goat to their father and **now, 22 years later, Yehuda madda of care and responsibility is returning and Yosef is returning himself to his brothers and ultimately to his father....(in a coming parasha).**

At the end of my hesped for my mother last year I shared, "In the past months, weeks, even the last days, as her heart weakened, her breath shortened, and her movements slowed, MY MOTHER'S HEART STAYED AS STRONG AND OPEN AS EVER. She truly cared about how you were, how your children were, how your pet was...anyone and anything that was dear to you, they were important to her. What made you happy made her happy." My sisters and I, my husband, and her two grandsons were the lucky recipients of this love and care.

Now I am getting more "settled". My mother's neshama is also getting more "settled" in shamayim. I feel Yaakov's imagined loss of a son. Loss of a person is incalculable. But we can live more purposefully knowing it's a blessing to be alive for whatever length of time we have. My father's name was **Chaim**. And on the Tree of Life, our Torah, I feel my father caring for his Rivka **Petal**, the petals on the tree's branches. They know love, united once again,

I wish you a shabbos of internally returning what is lost, helping an object or a person find their way back, to know someone cares about them and can forgive with compassion, and love.

A wonderful shabbos right before our first chanukiah candle lighting Sunday night!