

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 Acharei Mot - Kedoshim

April 25, 2026

8th Iyar

Shabbos lik ner **7:18 PM**

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:15 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:24 AM

Mincha 7:20 PM

Shabbos ends 8:22/8:49 PM

KIDDUSH LEVANA

Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 7:05 PM

Ma'ariv 8:17 PM

Havdalah 8:22 PM

Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:18 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 7:10 PM

Shabbos ends/Maariv 8:22 PM

Count the Omer

Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 7:20 PM

Count the Omer

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is this Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHMIRAS HALASHON class is M. & Th. at 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 a.m.

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.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Congregation Etz Chaim wishes Aryeh Maeir a most happy birthday with a special kiddush!

RABBI REISMAN

Watch as the **Book of Daniel** is brought to life with Rabbi Yisrael Reisman's famous thought-provoking *Navi class*, takes place every Saturday night at Congregation Etz Chaim at **10:15 p.m.** Please note **starting time**.

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting is **THIS Sunday, April 26 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please RSVP to jbmonat@aol.com for link if needed. Board members may use the same as last month's.

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Parasha class

Rabbi Rosenfeld weekly Sunday night parasha is this Sunday at 8:00 p.m. Link sent out by Chaim Stramer.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Our prayers are with the armed forces of the United States and Israel, for their swift victory and for their safe return home in peace. May the people of Israel see a turnaround of events from darkness to light. We pray for the healing of the wounded members of the IDF, those who have been hurt in terrorist attacks, the Israeli survivors from 10/7/23 **and this Iran War**. We pray for the healing of our own congregation members: Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bas Rachel; Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza. May they all heal soon and completely!

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

For our next read the Sharon Public Library has copies of ***The Lion Women of Tehran***. The books are available at the Circulation Desk. Questions? Book Suggestions? Contact Merilee at melmaeir@gmail.com.

Notes on Acharei Mot – Kedoshim ch. 16:1-20:27

By Janis Monat

As with the parasha **Acharei Mot**, **after the death** of the two oldest sons of Aharon and Elisheva, we had the Israeli national day of mourning this week for the men and women of Israel who died fighting for Eretz Yisrael, killed in wars Arab states/terrorists gangs necessitated the country militarily respond to. The day was **Yom Hazikaron**, the **4th of Iyar**, followed by **Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's 78th year of Independence, 5th of Iyar**.

The second half of the combined parasha this week, **Kedoshim**, means literally, **"to be set apart"**. Hashem told the Jewish people to, "Be holy, for I, the Eternal G-d, am Holy", ch. 19:2. What strikes me is that the word, **"Kaddish"** comes from the word **Kedoshim** and that's what the Jewish families were saying as they mourned their fallen loved ones on the 4th of Iyar. To lose a child/spouse/father is **to be set apart** from the life they had before as a unified family. From dust to dust, ashes to ashes, we have rebuilt ourselves and our homeland throughout history.

In our haftorah the prophet Amos reminds the people that Hashem took them out of Egypt and **singled them out (kedoshim)** as His chosen nation. G-d's promise was: "And I will return the captivity of My people Israel, and they shall rebuild desolate cities and inhabit [them], and they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their produce. And I will plant them on their land, and they shall no longer be uprooted from upon their land, that I have given them, said the L-rd your G-d." This is our **Yom Ha'atzmaut**, the latest time we had a fully functioning Jewish government in our homeland.

The land of Israel flourishes specifically when the Jewish people inhabit it. It's a "marriage to the land", a duty to care for it, reflected in laws like Shmitah, the 7th year, a year of rest for the land. Eretz Yisrael acts as an active partner that responds to the spiritual state of its inhabitants.

Kedoshim is also a term when we marry. We become **"mekudeshet"** to each other. Under the chuppah my husband, Yehuda, said to me, "Harae **mekudeshet** li. You are holy, separate from all others, unto me". Hashem commands us to be **kedoshim** in our actions, for Hashem is holy, a **little bit of our Creator in ourselves and in others**.

Other **"holy actions"** in our parasha are on behaving kindly and properly in our civilian and professional lives: paying a worker on time, leaving the corners of farm fields for the poor, using precise measures and weights in business, judging everyone fairly, not gossiping or taking revenge, observing the laws of Shabbat, being kind to the elderly, not putting a stumbling block in front of a blind person or cursing a person who is deaf. Rashi thinks these mitzvot belong together because **they're all about how to avoid harming others**.

Chabad shares that this week's Torah portion talks of the relationship with the mitzvah of, "You shall be holy," followed by the commandments of **honoring one's parents** and observing Shabbat. Holiness, at its core, means living with a sense of purpose and distinction. Judaism asks us not to blend in, but to elevate the everyday—how we live, eat, speak, and act—into something meaningful.

But how is that identity formed? The Torah points directly to the home. When children see respect between generations, when they are taught values with consistency and warmth, they gain a moral compass that stays with them.

And then comes Shabbat, the weekly anchor. For one day, we step back from the noise of the world and reconnect with who we are. Around the Shabbat table, in synagogue, and in quiet moments of reflection, our children absorb what truly matters.

If we want the next generation to carry Judaism forward with pride and clarity, it begins here, with the **holiness** we model, and the Shabbat we share together."

Viahavta Lareicha kamocho love your fellow as yourself," ch. 19:18. Rabbi Akiva called this the cardinal principle of Torah. Hillel reframed it as, "Don't do to others what you wouldn't want done to yourself".

A shabbos of caring, loving shalom,
Yona Shoshana