

Congregation Etz Chaim



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

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

Synagogue
Member



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Shabbos/Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

October 3 & 4, 2026 / 22nd & 23rd of Tishrei

Shabbos lik ner: **6:06 PM**

Shabbos Day/Shemini Atzeret

Shacharis **9:00 AM**

Latest Shema **9:38 AM**

Latest Tefilla **10:36 AM**

Mincha **6:00 PM**

Chag lik ner after **7:05 PM**

Sunday/Simchat Torah

Maariv, Havdala, **6:58/7:03 PM**

Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha/Maariv **6:07/6:45 PM**

Chag lik ner after **7:05 PM**

Simchat Torah

Mincha **6:07 PM**

Maariv/Havdala **6:58/7:03 PM**

Weekday at YI

Mincha/Maariv **5:55 PM**

TORAH LEARNING

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha **6:10 PM**

Maariv **7:04 PM**

Weekday at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv **6:15 PM**

Rabbi Hartman's class will resume after the chagim.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHMIRAS HALASHON class resumes 9-28-26.

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

SHABBOS KIDDUSH

The Maeir family is sponsoring shabbos' kiddush in honor of the birthday of Merilee's late father, Yoel Ben Yitzchak Leib HaLevi, on Aleph Sukkot, and her grandfather's yahrzeit, Yitzchak Leib ben Yoel HaLevi, on Simchat Torah. May their neshamos have aliyot.

A SIP OF TORAH THANKS

Thank you, Rav Yoni Monat for your "**Sip of Torah**" shiur on "**The Halachos of Chol Hamoed**" this past Wednesday. It was relevant with Halachic and modern examples.

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next monthly **board meeting** is **THIS Monday, October 5 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please RSVP to Janis at jbmonat@aol.com if the **link** is needed.

OCT. 7 REMEMBRANCE

People from five communities and 11 synagogues have come together as **one united community to remember and honor those who were killed on October 7, in captivity, or in battle since then.** This **Community-Wide October 7 Memorial Program** will be held at **Temple Israel in Sharon on Wednesday, October 7.** Doors will open at 6:45 p.m., and the program will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The flyer below contains a clickable link to the pre-registration form, as well as a QR code that also links directly to the form. **People must pre-register for safety reasons.** Any questions contact Nina Rogoff by e-mail, text or phone at 781-883-3764



[FLYER FOR OCT 7 MEMORIAL PROGRAM.pdf](#)

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

Please join our group for our next read, **History of Love** by Nicole Krauss on Monday, **October 12** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Sharon Public Library has them at the Circulation Desk. Just ask for the Etz Chaim Book Club book. Any questions or thoughts contact Merilee at melmaeir@gmail.com.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Our prayers are for the healing of the wounded soldiers of the IDF, those who have been hurt in terrorist attacks, the Israeli survivors from 10/7/23 **and this Iran/Lebanon/Gaza War.** We pray for the healing of our congregation members: Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bas Rachel; and Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza;. May they all heal soon and fully!

ROOM RENTAL

The Mathes Room, a large modern space, is available for holiday celebration rentals, shiva meals, sheva bracha meals, children's parties, etc. Please contact George Monat, etztreasurer@aol.com for more information.

THOUGHTS on V'zot Habracha, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah

By Janis Monat

One recent statement Yoni Monat gave from his shiur on the halachos of Chol Hamoed was, **"Look at chol hamoed days as a bridge, not a gap."**

The shortest distance between two points is a line and **what we do in life is the line**. From the first two days of Sukkos through Hoshana Rabba, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah we are preparing ourselves to conclude our Torah portions with V'zot Habracha and begin with Bereishis. We return with finding something new, from a different perspective and/or a different understanding, absorbing a fresh lesson. It's because we're not the same people who heard or read the Torah last year and we won't be the same people when we return to it next year. With our circle of family and friends, jobs that give us parnassa, activities that inspire us and growth that teaches us we hopefully will continue to reach toward our highest potential.

We have been reading about one such person....Moshe. On his last day he said, "And this is the blessing...." What is the blessing he was giving us?

Moshe was conveying to B'nai Yisrael, ch. 33:1, that he was just as human as they were... as we are. We don't always get what we pray for, beg Hashem for. But we try to live our lives the way a mensch should, being kind to our brethren, having faith in Hashem, learning and doing mitzvot, doing acts of kindness, studying Torah, and standing up for our principles.

Moshe was **commanding us the Torah**, the inheritance for the congregation of Yaacov (ch. 33:1,4), then...through now. Maimonides writes in his Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Teshuva 5:2, "Every human being can become righteous like Moshe our teacher or wicked like Yeroboam." Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z.l., in his book, **Judaism's Life- Changing Ideas**, expounds, "Prophetically there was only Moses. But morally, the choice lies before us every time we make a decision that will affect the lives of others. Even the greatest human beings make mistakes. What makes them great is not that they were perfect but that they kept going. They learned from their errors, refused to give up hope, and eventually acquired humility. They don't lose their ideals even when they know how hard it is to change the world. It's about getting up every morning and walking one more day towards the Promised Land even though you know you may never get there but knowing also that you helped others get there."

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson said that a Jew is never stuck. "You are exactly where you need to be. "If Providence has placed you somewhere, even somewhere you did not intend to be, the question is not how do I get out of here? The question is: **What am I supposed to accomplish while I am here?"**

This was extraordinarily illustrated this week on FlyDubai flight 1073. While most of the passengers and crew were terrorized and immobile when their plane was hijacked, a number of passengers recognized that they were there for a reason. The attacked, bloodied captain was able to open the cockpit door to let in passengers, who stabilized the plane and restrained the co-pilot attacker. Other Flydubai pilots on board then landed the plane in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.

Yaniv Hayun, a plumber with no aviation experience, grabbed the controls and helped level the aircraft. A dentist, Dr. Shota Musayev, treated and stabilized the badly wounded captain, Captain Smit Machchhar, a hero in his own right. And Tzvika Manes and Assaf Rajuan, two businessmen, helped restrain the terrorist. **These heroic people were simply passengers trying to get home. But at that moment, they were exactly where they needed to be.**

From Stand With US rabbis commented, "And this took place during Sukkot, a time when we deliberately leave the structural security of our homes to dwell beneath a fragile roof. It reminds us both of the fragility of life and of the importance of gratitude. Today, we say: **"Hodu l'Hashem ki tov, ki l'olam chasdo."** We thank G-d for life, for protection, and for those whose courage helped bring everyone safely to the ground."

On a more local level our presence is needed on October 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Sharon High School for the Select Board's formally scheduled Special Town Meeting. **314** Sharon residents under the group name, Sharon RESET,

signed a petition to bring a “**NO CONFIDENCE**” vote against 5 of the 7 members of the Sharon School Committee. Four are Jewish and a non-Jew who is supportive of the Jewish people and Israel.

One issue the five are being “examined” for is the curriculum replaced by the superintendent-elect that offered a more balanced approach regarding Israel’s history and its need to protect its own people in exchange for a rabidly antisemitic curriculum a particular teacher was teaching. By coming to the town meeting and **voting NO** it would prevent the Reset political organization from gaining reputational ground. Two of the four Jewish school committee members are up for re-election in November, and the Reset group would like to prevent this from happening. Ultimately, they would like to control town committees with their agenda. The great Hillel commentator said, “If not now...when”?

This came to my attention by a retired business executive who devotes much of his time combating antisemitism and advocating for Israel. He had attended this past Tuesday morning’s talk by David Bernstein at the Sharon Community Center on **Antisemitism and Extremism in K–12 Education: Where It Comes From and What to Do About It** and he is concerned.

Chabad teaches “In thinking about Jewish life wherever we are, we need to capture the moment, realizing that this is the place **I** can contribute to the world. The fact that I know this...gives me the tremendous confidence and excitement that **I count**.”

“This alone is something worth dancing about this Simchat Torah. Dance and take it all in, that Hashem has something for you that will change the universe.”

A peaceful shabbos/Shemini Atzeret and a joyous Simchat Torah!