

# 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 Eikev

### 22nd of Av

Lik ner 7:26 PM

### Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:18 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:28 AM

MINCHA 7:30 PM

**SHABBOS ENDS 8:29/8:55 PM**

### Shabbos Day at YI

Mincha 7:28 PM

Ma'ariv 8:24 PM

Havdalah 8:29 PM

### Weekday Young Israel

Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:17 PM

### Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 7:15 PM

Shabbos ends 8:28 PM

followed by Maariv

### Weekday Chabad

Mincha 7:20 PM

Maariv 8:11 PM

## TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is on hiatus post Labor Day.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

**SHMIRAS HALASHON** class resumes **Mon. Aug. 18.**

Please contact Janis Monat: [jbmonat@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:melvynhuff@comcast.net) for more information

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## BOARD MEETING

Etz Chaim's monthly board meeting **IS THIS Monday, August 18 at 5:30 p.m.** via Zoom. Please contact Janis Monat [jmonat@aol.com](mailto:jmonat@aol.com) for the link. All old and new board members are WELCOME!

## PRAYERS FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

May Hashem continue to give the IDF strength to complete the mission in Gaza and allow **ALL** the hostages to "come home" NOW! **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; a friend, Chayale Tzipporah Zlata bas Bluma Yehudis; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bat Rachel; Ben Cable, Chaim Baruch Binyamin Aharon ben Shulamit, and Chana Rivka bas Neshe. May HaShem make their healing full soon! (We are glad to be able to take off Yosef Martin, son of Leisha, from the list!)

## HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES

For Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur our shul will be hosting Rabbi Martin Rosenfeld as our guest rabbi. Rabbi Rosenfeld has semicha from Yeshiva University and has served in pulpits for more than 30 years. He also has a law degree and currently does mediation work. He and his wife Karen, a social worker, reside in Fair Lawn, NJ.

The services will begin at 8:30 a.m. and seats are being offered without charge. However **please RSVP for security measures to treasurer George Monat: etztreasurer@aol.com**. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED IN WHO HASN'T RSVP'D. Any questions you can phone George at (781) 784-1706. Social distancing is available.

**L'shana tova u'metuka!**

## THOUGHTS on Eikev ch. 7:12-11:25

**By Janis Monat**

The parasha's title reminds me of what Yaakov was holding onto as his older twin brother was attempting to be born from their mother's womb, Eisav's "heel". The name "Yaakov", Jacob, comes from the Hebrew word "aqev", ayin, kuf, vet, which means "heel". Yaakov was trying to "supplant" his brother from being the first born." Or perhaps it was Yaakov trying to hold back the negative instincts in Esav.

Our parasha Moshe is continuing his "closing" review to the Jewish people. He tells them that if they fulfill Hashem's commandments, ch. 7:12, "As a result of, **Eikev**, obeying these laws, guarding and keeping them, G-d will keep for you the covenant and the love which He promised to your forefathers." They will prosper in the land that they are about to enter. "V'haya eikev tishmioon...." This shall be the reward when you follow my commandments...The Hebrew word "tishmioon" spelled tof, shin, mem, ayin, vov, nun, final sofee is a future tense, **plural form of the verb "shema"**. We know **shema** means "**to hear**" or "**to listen**". In our parasha's case, it is to **obey what is heard and take action**, such as conquering and settling the land.

I want to talk about one particular mitzvah in this parasha, “You will eat and be sated, and you shall bless the Lord, your G-d, for the good land He has given you”, ch. 8:10. Almost all the blessings in our sedarim were established by our sages and are not biblically commanded. The prior one is. Over a thousand years the Birkat Hamazon has evolved as a series of four blessings. The Talmud explains who composed each blessing and when.

Rav Nachman said, “Moshe instituted the first blessing of ‘Who feeds all’ when the manna came down for the Jewish people in the desert. They needed to thank G-d for this sustenance.

Joshua instituted the 2<sup>nd</sup> blessing for the land when the Jewish people entered Eretz Yisrael.

The third blessing is the final one required by the Torah. It was composed by David and Solomon for Yerushalayim. King David referred to “Israel, Your People, and “Jerusalem, Your City”, after it was made Israel’s capitol. When the First Temple was built, Solomon added, “The great and holy House”, (Berachos 48b). With the destruction of the Temples and exile, the blessing was changed to a prayer for the return of the Land, the Temple, and the Davidic dynasty.

We say “Amen” after this 3<sup>rd</sup> blessing to demarcate the first 3 Torah blessings being from the Torah and the fourth one being Rabbinic in origin, Berachos 45b, Rambam, Tur – a request for Hashem’s mercy upon the Jewish nation, and our gratitude for the preservation of the Jewish victims’ bodies, murdered by the Romans in their massacre at Beitar. They finally allowed them to be brought for a proper Jewish burial, Brachos 48b. IF ONLY HAMAS would bequeath THE SAME CURTESY.

Moshe was reminding the Jewish people not to become too haughty in thinking their planting of seed alone would cause the wheat to grow for them to make into dough for bread. When they eat, are satiated, and enjoy the blessing they must recognize Hashem as its source. Maybe that’s why the Sages included Moshe’s blessing for the manna together with Joshua’s blessing for the bread of the land. The natural bread is a blessing from G-d no less than the bread from shamayim! God is involved not only in miracles but also in nature, not only in the bread from the heavens but also in the bread from the earth!

On this shabbos let us reaffirm our commitment and belief that our physical wealth and sustenance are from Hashem’s grace as we do our part in the brit we made at Har Sinai: “We will do and we will **Shema!** Listen, understand, make the commandments a part of ourselves, our spiritual selves combined with our physical selves. The 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the Viahavta in this parasha commands us to “teach these laws to our children”, and to teach our children to be a mensch, to conduct business with integrity and for all of us to find Hashem in all our daily doings.

A second sweet shabbos of the seven ones of comfort leading to Rosh Hashana!