



Congregation Etz Chaim

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

President: Leonard Gerber, Ph.D.
Treasurer: George Monat
Secretary: Janis Monat
Member at Large: Robert Dell

Synagogue
Member



Parasha Metzora

12th of Nisan

April 20, 2024

Shabbos Hagadol

Erev Shabbos

Mincha/lik ner 7:13 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:19 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:27 AM

Ma'ariv 8:16/8:44 PM

NO SHABBOS SERVICES AT ETZ CHAIM

Shabbos Day at YI

Young Israel

Mincha 7:00 PM

Ma'ariv 8:17 PM

Shabbos at Chabad

Mincha 7:20 PM

Ma'ariv 8:17 PM

ETZ CHAIM SUNDAY

Shacharis 8:00 AM

Mincha 7:20 PM

Weekday community Mincha/Ma'ariv

Young Israel 7:17 PM

Chabad 7:20 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class will resume May 5, 2024.

The link Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHAMIRAS HALASHON will resume May 6, 2024

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8709646716?pwd=QzY0MWVOWUFJZ1FtMWVJZlBpVzhNZz09>

DAF YOMI WEEKDAY ZOOM SCHEDULE

Via Zoom: Mon - Th 7:30 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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UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WILL BE NO SHABBOS SERVICES THIS WEEK AT CONGREGATION ETZ CHAIM.

PESACH TALK

This Sunday, April 21, at 2:00 p.m. please join via Zoom an intriguing talk by Yoni Monat entitled, "PESACH: LIGHT AS AN EAGLE". For the zoom link please contact jbmonat@aol.com.

YOM HASHOAH

Sunday, May 5 at 7pm, is the Day of Remembering the Holocaust and the Bravery and will be communally observed at Temple Sinai, 25 Canton St. Sharon. All are invited and encouraged to attend. This special service will include music, candle-lighting, testimonies and reading of names of the those who perished in the Holocaust. If you have loved ones whose lives were lost in the Holocaust and would like their names read at the service please contact Janis Monat, jbmonat@aol.com.

This is a free event open to the entire community. It will also be live streamed. For questions or more information contact Dina Rosenbaum: d.rosenbaum@comcast.net. Never again and we should never forget!

ETZ CHAIM'S BOARD MEETING

Our next board will be Wednesday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. If you wish to share any ideas please contact Janis Monat jbmonat@aol.com

ETZ CHAIM'S BOOK GROUP

Our next book is *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land* by Omer Friedlander, a short story collection. We'll review it Monday, May 20 at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Merilee Maeir melmaeir@gmail.com & the link will be sent out shortly before the book review.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

We pray for all the injured IDF soldiers and Israeli citizens maimed on 10/7 and since to this day. May Hashem help heal them and return them to a full life. May there be a successful outcome to this war.

Am Yisrael Chai

We continue to pray for the health of our own family of friends: Alan Pass, Asher Anshel ben Miriam; a friend's son, Ahron Yitzchak ben Berina; Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Esther Dell, Esther bas Raizel; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; George Monat's sister-in-law, Shayna Baila bas Rachel; the mother of a son's friend, Tzipporah Zlata bas Bluma Yehudis; a colleague of a congregant, Eyal ben Chaya; the sister of Janis Monat, Ann Denise, Chana Davida bas Rivka Petal; and Miriam Aidel bas Sara Malka, the 2-year-old niece of Yoni's chavrusa, R' Hershel Yaffe, who has been diagnosed with cancer/leukemia, along with any other friends and family who need our brachot for a speedy & complete healing.

RABBI REISMAN's shiur is this motzei shabbos at 10:15 p.m.

Thoughts on Metzora and Pesach

By Janis Monat

Metzora is the category for the person who is struck with the tzara'as plague for their evil speech. As I ended last week's notes with the hope that we think more conscientiously about speaking **lashon tov**, good words, Rabbi Sacks addresses that not much in the Torah actually mentions **lashon tov**. It is **lashon hara** that's plentifully addressed in the Tanach. Why are we given what we shouldn't do? So we can **learn** our boundaries and limits. Adam and Eve knew they were not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Bad and their choice we are still living with.

Every minute we can make decisions about people. We could look at them for their inherent goodness and help bring out their best.... or say words that could hurt them. The latter is not what Hashem wants us to do. Our parasha exemplifies a beautiful mitzvah that the Kohen did in checking on the **metzora**, the temporary outcast living on the outside of the community. Over several different days he saw how they were. He was **visiting the sick**, the mitzvah of **bikor cholim**.

In the Torah and our siddurim, **the concept of love** is written about from three perspectives: "**Viahavta lareicha kamocho**", **loving the other** as we would want to be treated - a mitzvah **between people**; the **Viahavta**, we say after the Shema - **us loving Hashem**; and in the **Ahava Rabba** - **G-d's love for us**. We are obligated to love one another, love with awe and respect Hashem, and feel G-d's love for us, **even people on the "outside."**

On a local shul's Aron Kodesh is the picture of two lions with the words, "**Etz Chaim**". When I read in the **Ahava Rabba** the words **Chaim...b'leivav**, I look up and think of my blessed father, **Chaim Leib, ben Binyamin Halevi**. I smile. His love was as generous and sparkingly sincere as I have ever known. He listened to and responded to people from his heart, and like Hashem, as the Sages say, **G-d smiles when we speak kindly** about each other. This was a quality my father lived all of his life, as did his mother, Yetta bas Mendel, HaKohen, my funny, sweet grandmother who was also my prize inspiration.

Chofetz Chaim teaches we must choose our words carefully. Positive speech can save a life and negative speech can destroy one. It is a choice to carefully think ahead, give people and situations the benefit of the doubt, judge them positively, and have the patience to consider the whole picture....or not.

At our seders as we celebrate the freedom of our people, we might think of some 130 hostages still imprisoned in Hamas' tunnels, Evan Gershkovich in a Russian prison, and the surrounding enemies on Israel's multiple fronts. Yet it's crucial to move, in the words of the Haggadah, "from slavery to freedom, from sorrow to joy, from mourning to celebration, from thick darkness to a great light..." This has been the point of the Seder for the past two thousand years. May we have the inspiration to give the gift of love by speaking positively to others, showing love to Hashem through our mitzvot, doing chasadim tovim, good acts, and feeling the presence of Adomye loving us.

A wonderful shabbos and a chag Pesach kasher v'sameach!