

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 Matos-Masei

July 11, 2026 / 26th Tammuz

Birkat Hakodesh

Rosh Chodesh Av is Wednesday

Shabbos lik ner **8:03 PM**

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:04 AM

Latest Shema 8:57 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:19 AM

Mincha 8:05 PM

Shabbos ends 9:12/9:33 PM

Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 8:04 PM

Ma'ariv 9:07 PM

Havdalah 9:12 PM

Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 8:00 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 8:00 PM

Maariv 9:12 PM

Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 8:00 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is off for 1 more wk.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHMIRAS HALASHON class is Monday 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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Benjamin Ian Monat as he celebrates his double chai year. May he continue growing in Torah and Ma'asim Tovim!

ERUV CHECKERS

2 volunteers are needed to help check the eruv. One section is in the woods, the other is on telephone poles. Checking is on Thursdays or Fridays. The sections are shared so you would check every other week. Each section takes 20-25 mins.

Please let Mitch Klausner know if you can help. Cell: 781-248-1208

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next monthly **board meeting** IS **THIS Sunday, July 12 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. We welcome **Chaim Stramer as the shul's new president**, the continuing board members in their positions: George Monat as treasurer, Janis Monat as recording secretary, and Robert Dell, Chuni Rappoport, and Michale Ferber as "at large". Please RSVP to Janis at jmonat@aol.com for the link if needed. Thank you for all who attended the in-person congregational meeting.

RABBI MENDY ROSENFELD

Rabbi Rosenfeld will be giving his Sunday evening parasha talk at 7:00 p.m. It's the same link as last time. If needed please contact Chaim Stramer, Stramer@aol.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, Chana Reuven ben Leah; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bas Rachel; Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza; Burton Cusner, and Janis' sister, Chana Davida bas Rivka Petal, Ann Denise. May they all heal soon and completely!

GUEST SPEAKER ON OCTOBER 7

Colonel Avner Cohen is speaking on **Leadership in the Shadow of October 7** on Tuesday, July 14, at Temple Israel from 7:45 9:00 p.m. It is free of charge but you do have to pre-register. Click the link, scroll down to the bottom of the page, fill out the form and then hit "Submit". You may ignore the part about logging in to Temple Israel. Here's the link: <https://tisharon.shulcloud.com/event/col-cohen>

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

We are reading the historical fiction book, **The Teacher of Lost Orphans**, by M.Z. Daskal and the author will be joining us for the book discussion! Via Zoom it will take place on **Monday, July 20 at 7:00 p.m.** The books were purchased by Larry and Susan Cable **to honor the memory of their daughter, Michelle Cable, Michal Freidal a"h bas Eliezer**, whose yartzeit will be the day of the book talk, **the 6th of Av**. May her memory be for a blessing. Contact Merilee with any thoughts or questions at melmaeir@gmail.com. All are welcome to join our book club.

THOUGHTS on Matos-Ma'asei

By Janis Monat

Making a vow and an oath begin Matos, ch. 30:2-3, "...If a man takes a vow to Hashem or swears an oath to establish a prohibition upon himself, he shall not desecrate his word..."

As a nation the Jewish people made a vow to Hashem in the brit/covenant of "na'asei v'nishma", we will do and learn/hear/listen when they accepted the Torah. The Jewish people temporarily broke that promise when they built the Golden Calf...yet Hashem kept Adomye's.

After the teaching of vows and oaths Moshe addressed the tribal leaders with the word, “**matos**” meaning “**tribes**” or “**staffs/rods**”. He was instructing the tribal leaders to take vengeance on the Midian people to make amends to God for the Jewish men doing idol worship. The goal was to make Hashem proud of their righteous actions.

Once inside the Promised Land the Jewish nation was commanded to eliminate the tribes there to prevent their idolatrous ways from spreading. According to the Jerusalem Talmud, these nations were given the opportunity to repent and accept upon themselves the Seven Noahide Laws. Only if they refused to accept this moral code and instead remained steadfast in their sinful ways was the command to be carried out.

Taking the other meaning of the word “**matos**”, as “**staff**” in modern terms a boss might order his “**staff**” to carry out an activity or accept a way of thinking. It could involve disregarding their ethical approaches to a company issue. Enron was such a company. It failed because it accepted lying as normal, from top down, about the financial means of the company such as salespeople promising goods they knew the manufacturing dept. couldn’t make.

From the Journal of Accountancy, Enron had “a toxic culture that prioritized profit above ethics. This environment incentivized executives and employees to hide mounting debts and falsify earnings to maintain the illusion of continuous growth.” Enron collapsed and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on December 2, 2001, due to a massive accounting fraud scandal that caused the energy company's stock to plummet and wiped out billions of dollars in employee pensions and shareholder investments.”

Keeping one’s word is vital for a society or any relationship to be sustained. When one backs out or lies about having made it, trust starts to crumble.

It was after the war against the Midianites that Gad and Reuven told Moshe that they would prefer to stay east of the Yarden River with the land being fertile for food for their cattle. In addition to Moshe feeling they would not fulfill Hashem’s commandment to enter and live in the Promised land, he was concerned that Gad and Reuven’s desire would influence their fellow tribal brothers to not enter Eretz Yisrael and battle the opposing foreign tribes. Moshe feared that the speech of the earlier scouts that frightened the Jewish people to not enter Israel 38 years before could happen again.

With the two tribes seemingly not taking their G-d given land apportionment in Israel proper, were they breaking their communal vow of “doing and listening”?

Moshe is reassured in chapter 32:25, “Your servants shall do as my lord commands...your servants shall cross over – every armed person of the legion- before Hashem, to do battle, as my lord speaks.” In fact, the tribe of Gad led the battles so successfully that the opposing foreign tribes were wiped out. It was then in ch.32: 33, that Moshe gave permission to the Gadites, the Reubenites and two families of Menashe’s eight families to settle the land on the east bank”, Rambam on the last point.

Chabad shares that the tribe of Menashe had a special relationship with Israel. The daughters of Zelophehad asked Moshe that they be counted in receiving their plot of land in Eretz Yisrael despite not having a living father nor any brothers. They were from the tribe of Menashe. They were granted this request by HaShem with the stipulation that they marry from within their tribe to maintain the land.

So why aren’t we in the land of Israel? Aren’t we are part of the nation that said, “We will do and we will listen”? Maybe we also have our “fertile ground” for our “cows” and material needs as well as family commitments that keep us from making aliyah. Yet as a Jewish people wherever we live we try to live a moral life based on the Torah’s mitzvot that we promised to follow thousands of years ago. Doing and learning... generation after generation.

CHAZAK! CHAZAK! V’NISCHAZEIK!