

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 Tazria-Metzora

April 18, 2026

SHABBOS ROSH CHODESH

Shabbos lik ner **7:10 PM**

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:21 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:29 AM

Mincha 7:10 PM

Shabbos ends 8:13/8:41 PM

Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 7:10 PM

Ma'ariv 8:03 PM

Havdalah 8:13 PM

Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:10 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 7:00 PM

Shabbos ends/Maariv 8:13 PM

Count the Omer

Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 7:15 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.

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SPECIAL KIDDUSH

Etz Chaim will be having a grand cholent and kugel kiddush this Shabbat in honor of our special guests from Israel, Burton and Alice Cusner. All are welcome!

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 **new starting time**.

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting is **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.

BOOK ALERT

The book "**V'shee-non-tom**" by Rabbi Elias Schwartz was recently left in Etz Chaim with no name. If it is yours, please kindly claim it from the Daf Yomi table.

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Parasha class

Rabbi Rosenfeld weekly Sunday night parasha is this Sunday at 8:00 p.m. Link is same as pre-Pesach's.

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 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 Tazria-Metzora

By Janis Monat

Imagine we were on the 49th level of sin out of 50 when we were slaves in Egypt, yet we were not subjected to any of the 10 plagues. Yet a few short months later, on our journey in the desert, we were getting the punishment of the plague of tzara'as for speaking lashon hara.

Why? We were leaving levels of sin behind us and were on route to improving our middos. Reb Yoni Monat offered it was because we had received the Torah and were now held more responsible for our actions.

Rabbi Gavriel Goldfeder said having consequence gave us a chance to do teshuva and come back into the community with more insight and better command of our tongue and our actions. (Those with tzara'as had to leave the community, **exiled** for 7 days or possibly longer, as we, after 400 years of slavery, left our **exile**.)

Rabbi Wolosow points out that Hashem loves and cares for us and wants to teach us right from wrong. He sends the tzara'as to our clothes, our skin, and/or the walls of our homes for us to understand the danger of speaking lashon hara, evil speech.

Tazria opens with a new mother bringing a sin offering after giving birth, 33 days later for a son, 66 days later for a daughter. What sin might she have incurred? Chazal say it was for the exclamations of phrases she might not have meant had she not been in great pain in the labor process. Rabbi Goldfeder explained the sacrifice of the two birds, one was killed and the other was dipped in the first one's blood. Blood could attract predators and it was to teach animals/people not to sin as others are affected besides the person sinning.

Today is Rosh Chodesh shabbos. A new moon is sighted. A woman whose abdomen was full shortly before is now "flat", (at least those who bore naturally and nursed right away). Her pregnancy was **moon** based upon her **monthly** cycle, sharing the same root.

We as a Jewish people have existed since Abrahamic times. We know our history of survival in distant lands under incredible circumstances. The **monthly** calendar, one of the first mitzvot given in the desert, has kept us alive as a people with our rhythm of shabbos and chagim. We have waxed and waned, grown stronger and brighter, and smaller and dimmer.

A beautiful tehillim, psalm 8, has David asking Hashem, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place..." Those words moved me as did an article from the WSJ, 4-12-26, "For many astronauts, what began as a scientific endeavor became a shift in perspective from seeing the Earth a mere small sphere in an endless expanse."

We know the moon is and has been always there whether we see it or not. Our four astronauts on the Artemis II, were able to see the "dark side" of the moon.

Today with Rosh Chodesh we begin a new calendar **month**, a growing visible **moon**, just like the **birth and growth of an infant**...or the insight of an adult.

Chabad shares, "Each of us encounters moments of "darkness," be it (going around the moon), some stress, conflict, or disconnection. The Torah's guidance is simple and practical: add light. Do one more act of kindness, create one more moment of meaning, bring a little more warmth into your home or someone else's life.

Because in the end, it's not the ideas we think about that transform the world, it's the small, consistent actions we take that truly make it brighter!

A shining Rosh Chodesh Shabbos Iyyar!