

# Congregation Etz Chaim



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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



## Parasha Ki Teitzei

**August 22, 2026 / 9th of Elul**

Shabbos lik ner **7:18 PM**

### Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:23 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:31 AM

Mincha 7:15 PM

Shabbos ends 8:18/8:46 PM

### Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 7:19 PM

Ma'ariv 8:14 PM

Havdalah 8:19 PM

### Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:08 PM

### Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 7:10 PM

Maariv 8:19 PM

### Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 7:10 PM

## TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is this Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

**SHMIRAS HALASHON** class is on hold until 8-31-26.

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 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](mailto:melvynhuff@comcast.net) for more informati

### **RABBI MENDY ROSENFELD**

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Sunday evening parasha class this evening will be at 6:15 p.m.

### **ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB**

Please join our group for our next read, ***A Bend in the Stars*** by Rachel Barenbaum, **THIS** Monday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Copies are at SPL's circulation desk. Just ask the librarian for the Etz Chaim Book Club Selection. Any questions or thoughts contact Merilee at [melmaeir@gmail.com](mailto:melmaeir@gmail.com).

### **ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING**

Our next monthly **board meeting** is **Monday, Sept. 7 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please RSVP to Janis at [jbmonat@aol.com](mailto:jbmonat@aol.com) if the link is needed.

### **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!

### **HIGH HOLIDAY SEATING**

With the Yamin Noraim beginning Friday evening, Sept. 11, **please RSVP by August 21** to George Monat at [etztreasurer@aol.com](mailto:etztreasurer@aol.com) to attend Etz Chaim's cost-free Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. Registration is needed for security reasons. **Todah and an early, "Lishana tova tikateyvu!"**

### **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](mailto:etztreasurer@aol.com) for more info!

### **An offering from Jewish Family & Children's Service:**

Parent connection is a free, confidential helpline for parents and caregivers of children in infancy through adolescence seeking guidance and support. You can fill out an online inquiry or leave a message at any time and request to speak with a caring professional during business hours. The phone number is: 781 693-1378 or e-mail: [parentconnect@jfcscboston.org](mailto:parentconnect@jfcscboston.org). You can learn more at [jfcscboston.org/parentconnect](http://jfcscboston.org/parentconnect).

## THOUGHTS on Ki Teitzei ch. 21:10-25:19

By Janis Monat

"Ki Teitzei," means "**when you go out**," ch. 21:10, into war..."

This parasha has the most mitzvot of all the parshiot, 74, and they mainly revolve around moral behavior.

One commandment is not charging interest to a fellow Jew who takes out a loan, ch. 23:20-21. The question my son had which led me to research this issue is how can Israeli Bonds be allowed to pay interest to investors? "Ribis" is the Hebrew term for a loan. We are commanded that loans between fellow Jews should be free acts of camaraderie and compassion and not **commercial transactions yielding interest**.

The "Heter Iska" is a rabbinical tool in Jewish financial law that restructures a loan to become an investment instead of a loan. There is no loaner and borrower, nor creditor or debtor. **There is an investor and a receiver.** Israeli Bonds, backed by the Israeli Government, is an entity that people **invest** money in but do not receive "interest" in the usual sense but as shareholder's divisions/profits. A Heter Iska makes it possible for Jews to engage in modern banking, lending, mortgages, and business financing while keeping to the Torah prohibition against ribbis/interest.

Loaning a fellow Jew money or enabling them to find a job is the highest step in Maimonides' ladder of tzedakah. To have money is to have **material wealth**.

I thought this was interesting because the Shema, discussed in parasha, Va'eschanan, ch. 6:4-5, has the mitzvah of, "You shall love the L-rd your G-d with all your heart, with all your soul and with **all your might**." I used to think "might" related to one's inner strength and conviction, but I've learned it can mean **material wealth** as well. It can connect with one of the mitzvot in our parasha of **paying a worker on time**, ch. 24:14-15. By paying him/her by the end of the agreed upon contract it helps the person with their material needs, allowing them to fulfill "**with all one's might**".

Before we say the Shema, we read the **Ahava Raba** prayer, "Deep is **Your love for us**, Adomye, our G-d", describing **Hashem's love for us**. Its second paragraph begins with, "V'ha'eir einenu b'torahtecha, v'dabek l'beinu b'mitzvotecha...", **Open our eyes to Your Torah, help our heart cleave to Your mitzvot** - a request for spiritual **illumination**. We are asking Hashem to help us **see**, read, understand, and apply the teachings of the Torah in our daily lives, like the mitzvot in our parasha.

We follow the Ahava Raba with the Shema, our declaration to the One and only Hashem, where we commit to love Adomye with our heart, our soul and with everything we have. For this **we close our eyes!** The love from and for Hashem goes beyond our physical sight.

**We keep our eyes open to see each other**, to do mitzvot for each other, and be a minyan together. We **close our eyes** to concentrate on being inside of our commitment to Hashem.

Other mitzvot in our parasha are around the treatment of people and their property, burying the dead without delay, returning a lost object, not causing pain to a living creature, following the laws of marriage and divorce, not causing embarrassment to another, being honest in monetary issues, etc. As Hashem's compassion extends to us, we pass it on to others.

The last mitzvah at the end of this parasha is to **actively remember what Amalek did to us and to blot out Amalek's memory from under heaven**, ch. 25:17-19. This dual commandment is an oxymoron. We should erase the memory of a terrible aggression against the Israelites, and at the same time ensure our future generations remember. The desire to try to forget our worst experiences is understandable yet through history we have drawn lessons from them and carried them over to teach the next generation.

**May we with our conviction to love Hashem with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our might**, with our inner strength as well as our material wealth, "counter the skeptics with the certainty of our faith and allow our convictions to ring with clarity," a quote from Rabbi Lazar Gurkow.

A wonderful shabbos of certainty - Am Yisrael Chai!