

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 Vayekhel Pikudei

25th of Adar / March 14, 2026

Shabbos Mevarchim

Parasha HaChodesh

Lik ner 6:30 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:56 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:55 AM

Mincha 6:30 PM

Shabbos ends 7:31/8:02 PM

Shabbos Day at YI

Mincha 6:15 PM

Ma'ariv 7:26 PM

Havdalah 7:31 PM

Weekday Young Israel

Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:31 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 6:25 PM

Shabbos ends/Maariv 7:32 PM

Sunday at Chabad

Mo. – Th.

Mincha/Maariv 6:35 PM

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: M. & Th. 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 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 informatio

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1 Eruv checker is needed in a wooded section for 25-35 mins - every other week. Please let Mitch Klausner know if you can help: mklusne@gmail.com or phone 508-881-6771

RABBI REISMAN

Watch as the **Book of Daniel** is brought to life with Rabbi Yisrael Reisman's famous thought-provoking *Navi class*, taking place every Saturday night at Congregation Etz Chaim at **9:30 p.m.** Please note **new starting time due to clock change.**

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting is **THIS Sunday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m.** Please RSVP to jbmonat@aol.com for link if needed. Board members may use the same link as last month's.

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Parasha class

Rabbi Rosenfeld continues his weekly parasha class this Sunday. **His new time is 9:00 p.m.**

Contact Chaim Stramer for the link: Stramer@aol.com

If you've come to Rabbi Martin Rosenfeld's dynamic talks in the past it is the same link.

A word from Rabbi Chuni Rappoport

If anyone has any kashering or Pesach related questions feel free to contact him: chunir@yahoo.com.

Rabbi Rappoport also has a few bottles of his KFP COFFEE LIQUEUR for sale at \$25 A bottle. 10% of the proceeds goes back to the shul!

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 we 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 and the Israeli survivors from 10/7/23 and this Iran War. We pray for the healing of our own congregational family: Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bat Rachel; Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza; and George Monat's brother-in-law, Jerry Edelstein, Shalom Leib ben Chana.

THOUGHTS on Vayekhel Pikudei

By Janis Monat

I had never thought of the comparison Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, z.l. made in his book, I Believe, in this parasha about the middah of “**generosity**”. Moshe asks the B’nai Yisrael to **Vayekhel, gather together as a community to donate** for the building of the Mishkan. The Jewish people so generously gave their gold, silver, etc. that more than what was needed was collected. Moshe had to tell them to refrain from donating any more.

Yet Rabbi Sacks also speaks of the “generosity” of gold given by the Jewish people earlier in parasha Ki Tisa where it was used.... to create the Golden Calf!

Group efforts unify people but when it’s for the bad, the group can become a mob, which is what Aharon faced when people panicked that Moshe had not come down on the day they thought he would. This bred the fear that they were being abandoned. For “sustenance” they created a former source of familiarity and comfort... an idol.

Now it has come time to build a mishkan, a home for Hashem, and the more matured people are ready to welcome Hashem into their midst. They respond to Moshe’s invitation, “Let everyone whose heart moves him bring an offering” with giving generously: gold, silver, bronze, wool, animal skins, precious stones, as well as labor and skills. What unites them is a sense of common purpose. “Communities build; they do not destroy. They bring out the best in us, not the worst,” Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in his book, I Believe. “The Torah focuses not only on what the people make but on **what they become through making it**. To turn a group of individuals into a covenantal nation, they must build something together. **A people is made by making. A nation is built by building.**”

In modern times we have volunteers who work to build or refurbish homes to lower the construction costs for those who have less. This organization is “Habitat for Humanity” and they use **volunteer labor and donated materials and funds**.

On the other hand, a potentially harmful modern “community” can be created from social media. Rabbi Sacks quotes Mark Zuckerberg in 2017, “Social media can contribute to divisiveness and isolation. When used for virtue signaling, shaming, or aggressive confrontation a **new form of crowd behavior** can be created, the “**electronic herd**”.

We need face-to-face interactions and a willing “**generosity**” to make sacrifices for the sake of the group. In our lives it most certainly is needed in marriage, among family members, a shul community, work site, etc.

As we end the second Book of Moses, Shemot, and begin the third, Vayikra, we have gone from being enslaved to **building the Tabernacle**. We’ve let Hashem into our Mishkan, our shul, our heart. “G-d is close.... not at the top of a mountain but here in our midst.”

Enjoy the sacredness of shabbat, the day Hashem chose for us to rest, and to feel Adomye’s presence as we **build** this most special day. Together around the Olam we have read Shemot and we are on our way to Vayikra!

Chazak, Chazak, v’nischazek! Be strong, be strong and may we be strengthened!