

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



Shavuot/Shabbos and Yizkor

May 22-23, 2026

Shavuot starts **8:04 PM**

Shabbos lik ner **7:48 PM**

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:02 AM

Latest Shema 8:59 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:13 AM

Mincha 7:50 PM

Shabbos ends 8:56/9:18 PM

Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 7:47 PM

Ma'ariv 8:51 PM

Havdalah 8:56 PM

Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:47 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 7:45 PM

Shabbos ends/Maariv 8:57 PM

Count the Omer

Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 7:50 PM

Count the Omer

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is **NOT MEETING THIS SUNDAY**

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.

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MAZAL TOV

We wish a mazal tov to the granddaughter of Naomi and Mark Chernin, daughter of Rebecca and Jon Corke, to celebrate Aviva Eva becoming a bas-mitzvah!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Moshe Shriki's birthday is on Shavuot! He has been our lainer several times recently. A most happy birthday wished to him, till 120 years!

SHAVUOS LUNCHEON deadline is Tuesday, May 19, 2026 to RSVP

For those who have registered for the **Shavuot luncheon following the 9:00 a.m. first day Shavuot service**, we welcome **Rabbi Aryeh Klapper** who will share words after Torah reading, before Musaf. **Mr. Shimi Silberg** will speak during the luncheon on the topic "**The Jews of South Africa, past, present and is there a future?**" **Chag sameach!**

CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting **IS THIS SUNDAY, May 24 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.

INVITATION TO ETZ CHAIM

Young Israel invites Etz Chaim congregants to a Friday night dinner, May 29, for those aged 60 and above, and to hear the guest speaker, Kassy Akiva, on "**Reporting from the Front Lines as a New Jew**".

Following shabbos morning minyan one can hear Kassy speak on "**How Antisemitism Helped Me Find Judaism**", and later, one hour before mincha, come learn from a panel and Q & A with Kassy and Isaac Akiva, her husband, a former soloist for the Boston Ballet speak on, "**Why I love Being Jewish – Journalist & World Class Dancer in Conversation.**"

MEDITATION PATH OPEN

The **Ben Monat Eagle Scout Meditation Path** is open for the season at Etz Chaim! Feel free to bring a book from the Maimonides Library at Etz Chaim or one of your own to one of the benches or relax and enjoy the scenery of Hashem. Entrance is from the back right corner of the property, by the yellow sign.

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. 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 congregation members: Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bas Rachel; and Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza. May they all heal soon and completely!

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

For our next book we are reading *How to Share an Egg : a True Story of Hunger, Love, and Plenty* by Bonny Reichert. We'll meet on Monday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Copies are available at the Sharon Public Library's Circulation Desk. Simply ask for the Etz Chaim Book Club book. Library Questions? Suggestions? Contact Merilee at melmaeir@gmail.com.

Notes on Shavuos and Torah reading Exodus 19:1-20:23, and Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17

By Janis Monat

On the first day of Shavuos we read of the Ten Utterances given to the Jewish people from Hashem and then through Moshe on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on this chag we renew our acceptance of God's gift, and God "re-gives" the Torah.

Shavuos also means "oaths". On this day God swore eternal devotion to us, and we in turn pledged everlasting loyalty to our Adomye. Today we continue to listen to the "echo" of Hashem's voice, heard by our neshamas on Har Sinai 3300 years ago, and respond as they did, "We will do and we will listen, **Na-aseh v'nishmah.**"

Chabad shares that sometimes we struggle with change. Starting something new is hard but changing the habits and mindsets we already carry can be even harder. Once we become comfortable living a certain way, it becomes part of us, and breaking those patterns takes real strength.

This explains why, in the Ten Commandments, when G-d introduces Himself, He doesn't describe Himself as the Creator of heaven and earth, but as the One who took the Jewish people out of Egypt. Creation is extraordinary, but transforming a nation shaped by slavery into a free people was a far greater feat. **Freedom is about changing how we see ourselves and what we believe is possible.**

On Shavuos we stood together "**as one person with one heart,**" and discovered that change becomes possible when people support one another, Rashi on Exodus 19:2.

Every Jew carries that same ability. No matter how "stuck" we may sometimes feel, we are never trapped by who we were yesterday. Shavuos is a reminder that we can begin again and help each other rise higher.

It is said that the late Rabbi Stephen S. Wise attended a public dinner where he was seated next to a prominent woman. In an effort to impress him, the woman remarked that one of her ancestors was present at the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Rabbi Wise answered, "My ancestors witnessed the giving of the Ten Commandments!"

Looking forward to seeing you at the mountain!

Chag sameach Shavuos and with a wonderful shabbos!