

Congregation Etz Chaim



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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 Korach

June 20, 2026 / 5th Tammuz

Shabbos lik ner 8:05 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 8:57 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:13 AM

Mincha 8:05 PM

Shabbos ends 9:16/9:36 PM

Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 8:06 PM

Ma'ariv 9:11 PM

Havdalah 9:16 PM

Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 8:06 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 8:00 PM

Maariv 9:17 PM

Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 8:05 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class WILL NOT MEET THIS SUND.

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

THANK YOU

Thank you, Yoni Monat, for returning all the chairs to their proper places after they were taken out for the carpets to be professionally cleaned last week. Thank you also for organizing the bookshelves in the Mathes room. We have been without a librarian for years. Any one interested?

PLEASE ALSO NOTE: A short-sleeve Land's End size medium, 15 - 15 1/2 neck white shirt was left in Etz Chaim last Shabbos. It is hanging on the Mathes Room coat rack.

ETZ CHAIM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING and BOARD MEETING

All paid members are invited to vote at our live, in-person Congregational meeting, Sunday, June 28, at 10:00 a.m. All positions are open! Enjoy the morning coffee/tea and pastries!

Our next **board meeting** will be Sunday, **July 12** at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP to Janis at jbmonat@aol.com for the **link** if needed.

RABBI MENDY ROSENFELD

Rabbi Rosenfeld will be giving his Sunday evening parasha talk at 6:45 p.m. It's the same link as last time. If needed please contact Chaim Stramer, Stramer@aol.com.

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 soldiers 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; Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza; and Burton Cusner. May they all heal soon and completely!

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

We will be reading the historical fiction book, The Teacher of Lost Orphans, by M.Z. Daskal. The author will be joining us for the book discussion via Zoom on **Monday, July 20 at 7:00 p.m.** Copies can be picked up at the home of Merilee and Josh Maeir, 8 Deborah Sampson Street, Sharon **THIS** week. 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 Korach

By Janis Monat

I have always cringed at the thought of people being buried alive but that is the description in this week's parasha. Adomye punished the rebellious clan of the Levite tribe, headed by the first cousin of Moshe and Aaron, Korach, and his 250 followers. They and their firepans with offerings were swallowed up in the consuming open earth. Hashem was showing Korach and the doubting Jewish people who their true leader was – Moshe.

Being buried alive reminds me of the Nazis shooting Jewish prisoners and then burying them, even when some of the gunned down victims remained alive. Horribly before the group was massacred, they were ordered to dig their own burial ditches.

Interestingly or maybe macabrely, Talmud Bavli (Taanit 30b) and Eicha Rabbah (Petichta 33) write of when Hashem punished the generation of scouts and the Jews who believed their negative report of Eretz Israel. They would not be able to enter the Promised Land, they would die beforehand. According to Rabbi Levi, a

scholar of the Amoraim in the 3rd century, every year on the eve of Tisha B'Av, Moses would announce throughout the camp to instruct the people to "go out and dig".

Knowing that they were on a divine timeline for death the Jewish people would go out, dig their own graves, and lie down in them to sleep for the night. The next morning, a herald would cry out: "*Separate the dead from the living!*" Those who were still alive would arise and leave their graves. Every year, about 15,000 men (one-fortieth of the original 600,000) would die and be subtracted from the population.

In the fortieth year, the Israelites went through the exact same ritual, digging their graves, and sleeping in them. This time, however, on the next morning, *everyone* woke up alive. They slept in the graves the following night and the night after that, and still, no one died.

Finally, on the full moon of the 15th of Av, *Tu B'Av*, they realized they had survived the decree. Seeing that all were alive, they understood the decree had ended and celebrated this day as a holiday of love, life, and forgiveness which we have to this day!

Back to our parasha a leader inspires others to lead. In Shemot Moshe agreed to Yisro's advice to appoint leaders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens. These judges would resolve simple cases, and the most difficult matters would be brought to Moshe. In parasha Korach, ch.11:16-17, Hashem told Moshe, "Assemble for Me 70 men among the elders of Israel and take them to the Tent of Meeting. I will separate **some of the spirit that is upon you and bestow it upon them**. Then you will not bear the burden of the people alone." Ultimately, this became the rudiments of the Sanhedrin - how leadership was distributed.

This past Thursday, the 3rd of Tammuz, was Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson's 32nd yartzeit. He believed **a great leader was one who encouraged others to lead**. There are now sheluchim, "messengers" throughout the world. "**A true leader does not seek followers; he wants to teach others how to be leaders.**"

So who was Korach? He was a great-grandson of Levi, a first cousin to Moses and Aaron. The Levite tribe was divided into four parts: the **Amramites**, descendants of Amram, with *Aharon and Moshe*; the **Izharites**, descendants of Izhar, with *Korach*, the **Hebronites**, descendants of Hebron, and **Uzzielites**, descendants of Uzziel.

Korach's part was specifically responsible for carrying the most sacred, holy objects of the Tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the table of showbread, the lampstand, and the altars, on their shoulders via poles through the desert. One might think this was holy and honorable enough, but not to Korach.

Frustrated that the priestly duties went to Aharon and his descendants Korach led the rebellion against Moses and Aaron, demanding the same religious authority as the priests, and the leadership of the Jewish people. To Hashem and Moshe this was mutiny and Hashem destroyed Korach and his followers.

"Kol Yisrael areivim zeh bazeh" - all Jews are responsible for each other. We move forward knowing that we bear responsibility for our land and for our people and with the desire to live up to that responsibility. We in the U.S. have no one main spiritual leader. South America, the United Kingdom, Europe and Israel have chief rabbis of their countries. **For us and all of Judaism we have wise men and women who have some of the spirit of Moshe bestowed on them through time immemorial.**

Last week was the 39th anniversary of Israel's **Six Day War**, June 5-June 10, 1967. Not only did we get Yerushalayim, the Golan, and the Sinai back we also won back Hebron. (The **Hebronites** were one of the four tribes of Levi mentioned above). Just one day after Israeli forces liberated eastern Jerusalem this holy city, Hebron, was also liberated. Jordan had taken control of it soon after the State of Israel's independence had been declared by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, May 15, 1948. From the invasion of six major Arab countries until the Six Day War, Israeli people were not allowed to enter the holy city. The Jewish Quarter was destroyed, Jewish cemeteries were desecrated, 58 synagogues were destroyed and an animal pen was built on the ruins of the Patriarch Abraham Synagogue – just a short walk from the Cave of Machpela.

Now we maintain our hope and prayer to live in freedom and security throughout the world and in our national homeland. With enough outside enemies we must work hard not to have internal dissent – did you hear that, Korach?

Am Yisrael Chai!

A shabbos of shalom and love!

