

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 Vayishlach

16th of Kislev

Lik ner 3:54 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:17 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:03 AM

Mincha 3:55 PM

Shabbos ends 4:59/5:24 PM

Shabbos Day at YI

Mincha 3:55 PM

Ma'ariv 4:54 PM

Havdala 4:59 PM

Weekday Young Israel

Mincha/Ma'ariv 3:55 PM

(T. & Th. Maariv) 9:00 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Shabbos ends 4:59 PM

Maariv 5:19 PM

Sunday at Chabad

NO Mincha & Maariv today

Mo. – Th.

Maariv 7:00 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class **IS NEXT Sun, 12-14**

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 informati

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BARUCH DAYAN HAEMES

We mourn with Merilee Maeir on the loss of her mother, Linda J. Goldberg, Hinda bas Chaya Sara bas Mordechai. The funeral was Friday, December 5, 2025, at Stanetsky's in Brookline, 10:30 a.m. Shiva will be divided between the home of her brother in Brookline, her mother's home in Natick and the Maeir home Monday through Wednesday in Sharon. May Linda Goldberg's name be for an inspiring blessing to her family.

RABBI REISMAN

Watch as the **Book of Daniel** is brought to life *with Rabbi Yisrael Reisman's famous and thought-provoking Navi class*, taking place every Saturday night at Congregation Etz Chaim. Beginning time is 7:30 p.m. All are welcome!

BOARD MEETING

Etz Chaim's upcoming monthly board meeting is this Wednesday, **December 3 at 6:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please contact Janis Monat jbmonat@aol.com for the link. All are WELCOME!

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

Our next read is ***By Any Other Name*** by Jodi Picoult. Copies are on hold at the Circulation Desk at the Sharon Public Library under the name "Congregation Etz Chaim Book Club." We shall meet to discuss it on **Monday, December 8th at 7 p.m.** via Zoom.

PRAYERS FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

May Hashem hear our prayers for **ALL** the deceased hostages to **BE BROUGHT HOME NOW!** Am Yisrael Chai 🇮🇱 (We're almost there, Baruch Hashem!)

REFUAH SHELAIMA

We continue to pray for the health of Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; George Monat's sister-in-law, Shayna Baila bas Rachel; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bat Rachel; Len Gerber's brother, Yosef ben Chaya; and Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza

Refuah shelaima to Merilee's mother, Hinda Bas Chaya Sarah.

May HaShem help **each one** to have a full and speedy recovery!

THOUGHTS on parasha Vayishlach

By Yoni Monat and Janis Monat

My grandmother, Ms. Ruth Brainin, was an avid reader of the parasha. Vayishlach is read this year in the week of her Yahrzeit, 5th of Kislev. Yaakov Avinu was struggling with the "Sar shel Aisav" - angel of Esau. According to the Chofetz Chaim (32:26), Yaakov, the Amud haTorah-Pillar of Torah -was struggling with the force of evil to maintain his connection to the Torah.

Rabbi Kobi Schwarzbaum, talmid of YGFT, of Toronto, Ontario, notes the pasuk-verse, 32:29, which tells us that Yaakov was renamed Yisrael because of how he struggled to be able to acquire the Torah.

Rabbi Schwarzbaum asked, "Why is Yaakov's name not "Vatuchal", after the word in the pasuk which conveys that he actually won the battle with the force of evil?"

He self answered that the main factor in fostering our connection to the Torah is the struggle in doing so. The effort that one puts forth to grab hold of the Torah, is more important that whether one actually succeeds to amass knowledge. This is why Yaakov was not renamed "Vatuchal", for the victory; but rather Yisroel, for the toil.

My grandmother had this middah of struggling to acquire the Torah. Rabbi Mendel Gurkow, whose weekly parasha class my grandmother called into between the years of 2021-25, notes how my grandmother would engage in heated dialogue to try to understand the abstract Chassidic principles that the Rabbi was teaching. My grandmother was unwilling to allow a teaching to fly above her head; she rose to try to come to grips with it. My grandmother had the middah-attribute of "Yisrael", of *toiling*/working to understanding the Torah.

Janis adds, "My mother and I studied Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' weekly writings from his book, "Judaism's Life-Changing Ideas". She said more than once, "He makes a lot of sense!"

She and I discussed the parasha with my sons, Ben and Yoni, and my husband, George, through her later years. She passed away just 3 days after being a part of Rabbi Gurkow's parasha class on-line.

May her love for Yiddishkeit continue being passed on to me, my sister, and her grandchildren.

A wonderful, stay warm shabbos!