

# 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 Behar-Bechukotai

May 9, 2026

### 22nd Iyar

Shabbos lik ner 7:33 PM

### Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:10 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:21 AM

Mincha 7:25 PM

Shabbos ends 8:31/8:56 PM

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY!**

### Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 7:25 PM

Ma'ariv 8:32 PM

Havdalah 8:39 PM

### Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 7:33 PM

### Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 7:25 PM

Shabbos ends/Maariv 8:49 PM

Count the Omer

### Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 7:35 PM

Count the Omer

### 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 is M. & Th. at 9:15 a.m.

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 information.

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## RABBI REISMAN

Watch as the **Book of Daniel** is brought to life with Rabbi Yisrael Reisman's famous thought-provoking *Navi class*, takes place every Saturday night at Congregation Etz Chaim at **10:30 p.m.** Please note **starting time**.

## A SIP OF TORAH THANKS

Thank you, Yoni Monat, for the uplifting talk on: "**Sefiras haOmer: Building to Shavuot**", last Sunday. If you'd like a copy of his shiur please George Monat at [etztreasurer@aol.com](mailto:etztreasurer@aol.com).

**Rabbi Rosenfeld's Parasha class s cancelled for this Sunday.**

## MEDITATION PATH OPEN

The **Ben Monat 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.

## SHAVUOT LUNCHEON

All are welcome to come to Etz Chaim's **Shavuot luncheon following 9:00 a.m. first day Shavuot services**. A delicious salmon meal with sides and a cheesecake dessert will bring you to the heights, like you just experienced receiving Hashem's mitzvot on Har Sinai! **Back down to earth** the cost is \$25.00 per adult and \$15.00 for children 12 and under. \$60.00 family maximum. Please RSVP via the shul's website: **Etzchaimsharon.com**. Click upper right button **Donate**, then pull down and click **Luncheons and BBQ**. With counting....see you there! Any questions contact George Monat at: [etzchaimsharon.com](http://etzchaimsharon.com).

## CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting will be **Sunday, May 24 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please RSVP to [jbmonat@aol.com](mailto:jbmonat@aol.com) for link if needed. Board members may use the same as last month's.

## 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 the people of Israel 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, the Israeli survivors from 10/7/23 **and this Iran War**. We pray for the healing of our own 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 read the Sharon Public Library has copies of *The Lion Women of Tehran*. The books are available at the Circulation Desk. Questions? Book Suggestions? Contact Merilee at [melmaeir@gmail.com](mailto:melmaeir@gmail.com).

### Notes on Behar-Bechukotei, ch. 25:1-27:34

#### By Janis Monat

At the end of our double parasha we are concluding the 3<sup>rd</sup> book of Moshe, Numbers/Leviticus. As a congregation we call out, "**CHAZAK! CHAZAK! VANISCHAZEIK! BE STRONG! BE STRONG! And may we be strengthened!**" I wondered where this term came from.

In the the Book of Yehoshua Hashem is telling Joshua three times in ch. 1:6, 7 & 9, "**to be strong and courageous... to fight, be obedient to the law, and to lead the people into the Promised Land. Hashem promised His presence.**"

An interesting concept is **Hashem's presence**. In Bechukotai's chapter 26: 1-13 Hashem tells the Jewish people that if they follow Adomye's rules there will be peace in their land, the ground will produce fruit, rains will come in their timely fashion, cattle will have grass to eat, and the Jewish people will eat and be satisfied. **In verse 12 it is written, "I will walk among you...."** – G-d's presence.

G-d follows this with reproofing the Jewish people in ch. 26:14-41. If the Jewish people pray to idols Hashem's wrath will blaze against them. No rain will fall, no crops will grow, and the people will be banished from their land...and many other horrible consequences. **So...where is G-d's presence then?**

Chapter 24:44-45 answers this, "But despite all this, while they're in the land of their enemies, I will not have annulled **My covenant with them** that they made when they were taken out of Egypt, before the eyes of the nations, **to be God unto them - I am Hashem.**"

Hashem is with us even when it feels we might have been abandoned. We need to make sure we don't take our lives and all the gifts we have for granted. Chapter 26:23-24, "If...you behave casually with Me then I will behave toward you with casualness...you will eat and not be sated." If after much destruction over time, and over generations, ch.26:40-42 continues with "then they will confess their sin and the sin of their forefathers with which they betrayed Me, and for having behaved toward Me with casualness. Their unfeeling heart will be humbled and then they will gain appeasement for their sin. **I will not have been revolted by them, nor will I have rejected them to obliterate them.**"

Ch. 26:43 emphasizes, "...because their spirit rejected My decrees" **WE DID THE REJECTING, NOT HASHEM OF US.** Chapter 26:42, "I will remember My covenant Jacob, and also My covenant with Isaac, and also My covenant with Abraham..and I will remember the Land."

The Shema we read twice a day has its second paragraph beginning with, "Vihaya, if shamo...And it will come to pass..." and contains part of the above verses of Behukotai.

Ultimately, when we do teshuva we feel closer to Hashem. We need rules to be followed. Mankind's are variable. The son of a fictional king in the Broadway musical, Pippin, said at the end of his journeys and attempts to try different roles, "If I'm not tied to anything, I'll never be free". Many Jewish hippies of the 1960's returned to Judaism after "trying on" different religions and lifestyles.

We release slaves at the end of the Yovel year, the 50th Jubilee year, we give them their freedom. But underneath it all we never truly "possess" another person. Hashem through Torah instills in us the freedom to choose our responses to situations, to choose life over death, health over sickness, decent values from immoral thoughts/actions.

May this shabbos we feel Hashem's presence, show gratitude proactively and not take His presence and all our gifts for granted. **Chazak! Chazak! V'nischazek!**