

Congregation Etz Chaim



74 Billings Street, Sharon, Massachusetts 02067
www.etzchaimsharon.com
(781) 784-7204

President: Leonard Gerber, Ph.D.
Treasurer: George Monat
Secretary: Janis Monat
Member at Large: Robert Dell
Member at Large: Michael Ferber
Member at Large: Rabbi Chuni Rappoport

Synagogue
Member



Erev Shabbos Vayetzei

6th of Kislev

Lik ner 3:54 PM

FOLLOWED BY **SHABBOS MINCHA SERVICES**

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:18 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:04AM

Earliest Mincha 12:06 PM

Mincha 4:12 PM

Ma'ariv 4:59/5:24 PM

Shabbos Day at YI

Early Mincha 12:00 PM

Mincha 3:55 PM

Ma'ariv 4:59 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Earliest Mincha 12:00 noon

Ma'ariv 5:20 PM

Sunday Etz Chaim

Shacharis 8:00 AM

Mincha 4:12 PM

Weekday Mincha/Ma'ariv

Young Israel 3:55 PM

Late Maariv Tu & Th 9:00 PM

Chabad

Mincha 3:45 PM

Maariv 4:45 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class resumes this Sunday.

The link Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHAMIRAS HALASHON is M & Th. 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 information.

Etz Chaim has weekday morning minyans:
Monday through Friday at 6:45 a.m.

At the end, enjoy a cup of Keurig coffee, a
cookie, and/or a cup of tea, too!

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SHABBOS KIDDUSH

Today's shabbos kiddush is sponsored by Jonathan Goldberg in honor of the anniversary of his bar-mitzvah parasha. All are welcome to daven with us and enjoy deliciously prepared meat cholent and potato kugel kiddush, all handmade by Chuni and Leah Rappoport. Thank you, Mrs. Eveyln Stramer for shopping for these items & more!

THANK YOU

Thank you, **Rabbi Shragi Kawior**, for giving us your inspiring, thoughtful words of d'var Torah last shabbos.

THANK YOU - A SIP OF TORAH

Etz Chaim thanks **Mr. Yoni Monat** for sharing his researched Rosh Chodesh talk on, "**The Torah Perspectives on Eating**", tied to parasha Toldos. As his grandmother wisely noted, "You certainly gave us food for thought!"

RABBI REISMAN

This motsei shabbos **the illustrious Rabbi Yisrael Reisman** will be offering his weekly, thought-provoking Navi classes on **Yirmiyahu** at **7:30 p.m. at Etz Chaim**. All are welcome!

BOARD MEETING

Etz Chaim's is having two upcoming board meetings. Next Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 6:00 p.m. will be for a Chanukah planning meeting and the other is the monthly **board meeting Wednesday, January 8 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please contact Janis Monat jbmonat@aol.com for the link.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER AT YI

On shabbat, December 13, YI is having a Friday night dinner with Nitsana Darshan-Leitner of Shurat Hadin, Israel Law Center. She is also speaking after davening following Shabbat morning services.

For more information or with any questions you may reach out to **Mark and Naomi Chernin** at naomichernin@gmail.com. To RSVP for the dinner, please sign up [here](#).

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

The next book we are reading is *Wayfarers*, the latest novel from acclaimed author and filmmaker Arnon Z. Shorr. He weaves a thrilling tale of survival, faith, and the enduring power of heritage. Drawing from the timeless story of Exodus, this post-apocalyptic adventure is set in a world where religion is forbidden, and the struggle to preserve cultural identity becomes a matter of life and death.

The author, Mr. Shorr, is generously donating books to us, and you can contact Merilee Maeir for pickup via melmaeir@gmail.com & for the link. The author's only request is that you review the book on Amazon.

Mr. Shorr **will join us on Monday, December 16 at 7p.m. via Zoom** to discuss his work.

PRAYERS FOR ISRAEL

May the new ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah be successful for our brethren's sake, allowing the 60,000 Israeli residents to return to their homes in northern Israel in safety.

May our learning, davening, and acts of kindness be a *zechus* for the safety of *acheinu B'nei Yisrael* in Eretz Yisrael and help to protect all those engaged in the war against terror. **We pray for a return of the rest of the hostages**, the healing of the injured IDF soldiers and Israeli citizens maimed on 10/7/23 and since. May there be safety with a peaceful Israel, and a full victory over our enemies and antisemitism. **Am Yisrael Chai** 🇮🇱

REFUAH SHELAIMA

We continue to pray for the health of a friend's son, Ahron Yitzchak ben Berina; Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; George Monat's sister-in-law, Shayna Baila bas Rachel; a friend, Tzipporah Zlata bas Bluma Yehudis; Miriam Aidel bas Sara Malka, a 2-year-old niece of Yoni's chavrusa, R' Hershel Yaffe; the son of Leisha Martin, Yosef Eliyahu ben Ruth, <https://gofund.me/cacf3b87>, and Janis's mother, Ruth Brainin, Rivka Petal bas Chana. May their healing be complete soon!

Thoughts on parasha Vayeitzei

By Janis Monat

"Vayeitzei" means "As he left", referring to Yaakov leaving his family's home to escape the wrath of Esau and head to the land of his mother. My note touches on leaving a place of comfort upon **condition** to another filled with unknown **results**. As I typed in today's shabbos' secular date, December 7th, the 83rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day came to me. An appropriate quote from former President Ronald Reagan on Dec. 2, 1986, is, "Every honor is appropriate for the courageous Americans who made the supreme sacrifice for our nation at Pearl Harbor and in the many battles that followed in World War II. **Their sacrifice was for a cause, not for conquest; for a world that would be safe for future generations. Their devotion must never be forgotten.**" One can substitute **the Israeli Defense Forces** for the courageous Americans and **October 7, 2023** for World War II in our present situation.

Pearl Harbor was a life/death situation. Our American government under FDR did not want to get involved with Hitler conquering Europe. We Americans were "safe" here, across the seas. On December 7, 1941, the US forces entered WWII, now no longer a choice. The **conditions** changed and would the **results**

About two years later, 1943, a Satmar chassid, Rabbi Yissachar Teichtal, went into hiding in an attic in Budapest. He had grown up in the early 1900's being totally against the idea of Jews reclaiming Israel as their country with going to live there, etc. In that attic (foxhole) he had an 180 degree change of heart.

He had been a noted Rosh Yeshiva and Av Beit Din, was one of the leaders of the Ultra-Orthodox community in Europe and a vehement anti-Zionist until the events of the Holocaust revolutionized his way of thinking. After he realized that **the purpose** of the unspeakable persecution was to arouse the Jewish People to return to Eretz Yisrael, he publicly admitted the error of his former beliefs and vowed to write a scholarly treatise proving that **the obligation to live in the Land of Israel applied in all times**. He wrote his powerful argument, quoting hundreds of long Torah sources by heart, having no books with which to refer.

Rabbi Teichtal felt Hashem was allowing this horror happen to the Jewish **people to get them to move to Israel. G-d was doing something drastic to break the link the Jewish people had for millennium with Europe. He made a vow that he would convince his fellow Satmar Chassidim that should he survive the Holocaust he would convince them to move to Israel.** Sadly, the **condition** and the **result** did not happen. Yet the first 3 chapters of the book he wrote which was to be his tool to convince the chassidim of his ideas were saved. He started writing them during his two years of hiding in the attic. They were saved by a non-Jewish neighbor and his daughter had them printed. (Satmar has since put the book in Harem – banned their followers from reading them).

Sadly Rabbi Yisachar Shlomo Teichtal died on a train on the way to the Mathausen concentration camp in 1945. The below quotes are from his book, Eim HaBanim Semeichahm, meaning "the mother of children is

happy". First published in 1943 it remains the most comprehensive treatise on Eretz Yisrael, redemption, and Jewish unity.

He writes, "Hashem is waiting for us to take the initiative, to yearn and long for the return to Eretz Yisrael. He does not want us to wait for Him to bring us there. When we, of our own volition, truly and with all of our strength, desire and strive to return to the Land, then G-d will bring our work to a successful end."

"Since the sin of the Spies was perpetrated by the leaders of the generation, in order to rectify their sin, today's Diaspora Rabbis and leaders must rally their congregations and constituents to come on Aliyah. They must all speak out in a clear voice that the time has come to bid farewell to foreign and come home to the Land of Israel."

He continued, "All Jews must be united in order to fulfill the positive commandment of the Torah to settle and build the Land. This cannot be accomplished individually. Therefore, do as you are commanded! Furthermore, no harm will come to a Jew who participates in this great and exceedingly lofty mitzvah. On the contrary, if a large number of Orthodox Jews join in, they will enhance the sanctity of the Land, as I previously cited in the name of the holy Rebbe of Gur and the Ramban. Since we are commanded to build the Land and raise it from the dust, it is forbidden to be overly pious and undermine this endeavor, G-d forbid. Rather, we must build together with whomever it may be and concentrate on enhancing the sanctity of the Land. Then Hashem will assist us.

Rabbi Teichtal concludes:

"In summation, anyone who has a brain in his head and truly believes in Hashem and His Land will let no claim in the world stop him from elevating the pride of our Land. The arguments of those who try to prevent people from building the Land are the arguments of satan and his associates, may the Merciful One protect us from their viewpoints. This is even truer today after all that we have been through. Where are all of the Torah centers of Poland, Lithuania, and Hungary? Do we still have a portion and an inheritance here? Are we not considered strangers by the inhabitants of these lands? They have devoured our money, our bodies, and our spirituality. Thus, any intelligent and G-d fearing person will realize that there is nothing more to search for here in Exile. The time has come for all of us to return to the possession of our forefathers. This is true and clear in accordance with the truth of the Torah, and anyone who denies it denies the truth and the Torah."

Our parasha also has the **vow based on conditions** and the hoped for **result** beginning in Yaakov's dream. He had to take action to make Hashem's promise come true for his Jewish descendants and their coming to the Promised land. Politically, emotionally and spiritually it has taken 3500 years but Israel is its world recognized country and since 1948 has been led a Jewish government, with its Jewish armed forces, "public" schools teaching Chumash and runs somewhat on a Jewish calendar with no mail delivered on Sundays and most government offices, schools, and public transportation closed on Shabbat and chagim.

Some of us are living Rabbi Teichtal's gut felt dream, some are considering making aliyah, some want to visit it, take a gap year there, a semester abroad, and possibly be buried there. There are all kinds of ways the Jewish heart is connected to Eretz Yisrael. Yaakov, the future "Yisrael", had to leave there in order to eventually return stronger in his faith and with two wives, and 12 children. On his way there he dreamed that angels were going up a ladder **escorting him out of Israel**. The descending angels were accompanying him to the foreign land. Ya'akov's fortitude, the completing of Hashem's promise to have him and his descendants live in the Promised Land are what bring him, his wives, children and wealth back 20 years later.

The 10 spies were reticent, unsure, and scared of the unknown to enter the Land of Israel. Our parasha forefather, Yaakov, also had his premonitions and fears. Yet he asked Hashem to be with him as he left his homeland. He had faith Hashem would be with him no matter the outcome. He traveled into this idol worshipping land, married two sister and had his 12 of 13 children. He felt Hashem with him and never Chabad concludes, "The **conditions** Yaakov asked for were food, shelter, and clothing—basic, material needs." Without life there is no active **chance to do mitzvot-results**. "G-d's presence is not limited to the spiritual. He desires our connection in all areas, even the mundane. Be it in our prayers or daily actions, we make the Infinite tangible by inviting G-d into every moment.

A wonderful and keep warm shabbos!