

Congregation Etz Chaim



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Chaim Stramer - President
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 Ki Tavo

August 29, 2026 / 16th of Elul

Shabbos lik ner **7:06 PM**

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:26 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:32 AM

Mincha 7:00 PM

Shabbos ends 8:06/8:35 PM

Shabbos Day at Young Israel

Mincha 7:08 PM

Ma'ariv 8:02 PM

Havdalah 8:07 PM

Weekday at YI

Mincha/Ma'ariv 6:56 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 6:55 PM

Maariv 8:08 PM

Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv 7:00 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is this Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHMIRAS HALASHON class is on hold until 8-31-26.

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 informati

RABBI MENDY ROSENFELD

Rabbi Rosenfeld's Sunday evening parasha class this evening will be at 8:00 p.m.

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next monthly **board meeting** is **Monday, Sept. 7 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please RSVP to Janis at jbmonat@aol.com if the link is needed.

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

Please join our group for our next read, ***History of Love*** by Nicole Krauss on Monday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Copies will be at the SPL's circulation desk shortly. Updates coming soon. Any questions or thoughts contact Merilee at melmaeir@gmail.com.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Our prayers are 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/Lebanon/Gaza 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!

HIGH HOLIDAY SEATING

With the Yamin Noraim beginning Friday evening, Sept. 11, **please RSVP by August 31** to George Monat at etztreasurer@aol.com to attend Etz Chaim's cost-free Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services. Registration is needed for security reasons. **Todah and "Lishana tova tikateyvu!"**

DUES AND YIZKOR BOOK FORMS

By now you should have received your dues invoice and yizkor book form. Please contact treasurer, George Monat, via; etztreasurer@aol.com if you have any questions.

LULAV & ESROG

Rabbi Barry Harman is taking orders for etrogim and Lulavim with prices \$58.00, \$68.00, and \$78.00. His e-mail address is rabbibarry@aol.com.

ROOM RENTAL

The Mathes Room, a large modern space, is available for holiday celebration rentals, shiva meals, sheva bracha meals, children's parties, etc. Please contact George Monat, etztreasurer@aol.com for more info!

An offering from Jewish Family & Children's Service:

Parent connection is a free, confidential helpline for parents and caregivers of children from infancy through adolescence seeking guidance and support. You can fill out an online inquiry or leave a message at any time and request to speak with a caring professional during business hours. The phone number is: **781 693-1378** or e-mail: parentconnect@jfcscboston.org. You can learn more at jfcscboston.org/parentconnect.

THOUGHTS on Ki Tavo ch. 26:1-29:8

By Janis Monat

"Ki Tavo," means "when you enter". When the Jewish people entered the Land of Israel they were to commit themselves anew to Hashem and the Torah by inscribing the entire Torah on twelve huge stones, bringing offerings, and gathering at two mountains to affirm this promise. Because of the bond between the Torah and the Land, the mefarshim included them in the second blessing of Birkat Hamazon, expressing gratitude for the Land of Isreal, pointed out by Rabbi Bachya.

The two mountains the Jews assembled at as soon as they entered the Land were Mount Gerizim, lush and fertile, and Mount Ebal, a desolate wasteland. Six tribes stood on one mountain, and six on the other. In between, in the valley, was the Ark, the Kohanim, and the Levite elders. The latter loudly pronounced the blessings and the curses, with the instruction for the tribes to call out, "Amen!" after the curses. This is the only place in the Torah where the word, "amen" is commanded for the people to respond with, ch. 27:15-26. Why not after the blessings?

It's easy to say "amen" for blessings. It's the acknowledgment of the curses that's difficult. When we thank Hashem for good situations, we are grateful from the heart. When we say, "Baruch Dayan Haemet" after someone dies, "Blessed is the only true judge", it is not so easy for the "amen" to come out.

The blessings and the curses were supposed to be heard simultaneously, similarly for the way life is at times. A modern example this week was driving to Boston, intent on hearing the radio's latest traffic report and suddenly being interrupted by the GPS's voice giving directions. Two sets of sounds making it hard to hear either one! Life gives us both good and bad, often on the same day. Yet, we must listen for the blessings. The universe is like a large painting, if we stand too close to the painting we may get caught up in the details of the painting and miss the larger picture. This is illustrated by a story about Rabbi Akiva recounted in the Talmud:

Rabbi Akiva traveled with a candle, a rooster, and a donkey: the candle so he could study Torah at night, the rooster—his alarm clock—to wake him up to study Torah, and finally the donkey to carry his possessions. Rabbi Akiva once stopped at a city. He tried to get lodging at an inn but there was no room available. Rabbi Akiva went from house to house, but nobody would let him in.

Rabbi Akiva walked into the neighboring woods and set up camp. Suddenly, a strong wind kicked up and extinguished the candle. A few moments later, a ferocious lion emerged from behind his tent and killed his donkey. What was left? The rooster. A ravenous cat appeared and devoured it.

Rabbi Akiva was completely stuck. The next morning, Rabbi Akiva discovered that a band of robbers had attacked the town during the night, mercilessly killing the people and stealing their money. The robbers escaped into the forest. If they had seen the candle, or heard the noise of the rooster and donkey, Rabbi Akiva would have met the same fate as the townspeople. G-d had saved his life by extinguishing his candle and taking his animals.

Sometimes what seems like curses can be blessings and for that possibility we say, "Amen".

May we sing out the blessings of our lives, from one mountain top to the other!

A wonderful shabbos!