

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 Nitzavim-Vayelech

September 5, 2026 / 23rd of Elul

Shabbos lik ner **6:55 PM**

Shabbos Day

Shacharis **9:00 AM**

Latest Shema **9:28 AM**

Latest Tefilla **10:33 AM**

Mincha **6:50 PM**

Shabbos ends **7:53/8:23 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 **6:45 PM**

Maariv **7:54 PM**

Weekdays at Chabad

Mincha/Maariv **6:50 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 has resumed **Mondays 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 informati

RABBI MENDY ROSENFELD

Rabbi Rosenfeld's last evening parasha class until after the holidays will be this Sunday at 8:00 p.m.

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next monthly **board meeting** is **THIS 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. The Sharon Public Library has at the Circulation Desk. Just ask for the Etz Chaim Book Club book. 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 Hartman is taking orders for etrogim and Lulavim with prices \$60.00, \$70.00, \$80.00, and \$90.00. Please phone him with your order at **508- 954-3320** or e-mail him at: 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!

A word from Nina Rogoff

We are bringing together people from five communities and 11 synagogues as **one united community** to **remember and honor those who were killed on October 7, in captivity, or in battle since then**. The link is on the flyer for this **Community-Wide October 7 Memorial Program**, being held at Temple Israel in Sharon on **Wednesday, October 7**. Doors will open at 6:45 p.m., and the program will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The flyer contains a clickable link to the pre-registration form, as well as a QR code that also links directly to the form. **People must pre-register for safety reasons.**

The program was planned by a group of people from across the Jewish community. On behalf of all of us, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year. May the year ahead be peaceful and sweet.

Please feel free to reach out to Nina with any questions by e-mail, text or phone at 781-883-3764

THOUGHTS on Nitzavim-Vayeilech 29:9 - 31:30

By Janis Monat

Nitzavim is Hebrew for the command **to stand** as one people. **Vayeilech** is about **going out** as said by Moshe on his last day of life. How does **one stand** and **yet go out**? Hashem **stands us up** with strength in giving us the Torah for our brit/covenant. We **go out** and live it, examining, discussing and debating, adapting and applying it to our lives within Sinai based parameters.

Since the first day of Elul, we've been saying Psalm 27, written by King David. The 4th pasuk has been sung in various tunes and I thought of its connection with our parasha. "**Achat sha'alti m'eis Adomye otah avakeish-** one question I seek from Hashem,...**shivti, to sit, be settled** in the house of Hashem. In **Nitzavim** the Jewish people were commanded **to stand with recommitment**, to be **spiritually settled** before G-d to enter the Covenant. **B'veis Adomye**— in the House of Hashem, **kol yamei chaya** – all the days of (our) lives. **We stand firmly with resolve** and strength to live in the House of Hashem by doing mitzvot and acts of gemilut chasadim, bestowing kindness on each other. The **Vayeilech** half of our parasha is about **journeying from strength to strength**, being busy doing mitzvot such as welcoming guests, (think Rosh Hashana), celebrating shabbos and enacting with joy all the mitzvot between person and person, and person with Hashem. **Lachazot b'noam Adomye oolvaker b'heycho**. "I will **behold/gaze with pleasure** Hashem in the **revelation** of His palace/sanctuary. King David knew he wouldn't be able to build the physical House of Hashem, his son would. Yet King David's yearning to be in Adomye's home all the days of his life was fulfilled by bringing Adomye's house and presence into his ways and prayers as we do in our homes, shuls, the way we treat people, inside our souls, deep in our love, and through our prayers.

The word "**oolvaker**" dawned on me that "**vaker**" is the root of "**visiting**", as in the mitzvah of "bikor cholim", visiting the sick, AND it's the word for **morning**, "**boker**"! What could be the connection I wondered?

In the morning we can see more clearly and come to terms with certain situations. One historical example in Sanhedrin 4:1 is when the High Court's judges/priests/sages were faced with deciding a person's guilt in a capital case. They were to go home and come back the next day, having "slept on it". In actuality they were to stay up all night, pondering. Somehow with the "break of dawn" there was a breakthrough, with the light of the morning splitting or breaking through the darkness of the night

So how is this connected to visiting someone? When you truly "**visit**" someone you aren't just physically showing up. You are breaking through a barrier to deeply check on their well-being, inspect what they need, and pay close attention to them. As morning light, **boker**, penetrates the darkness to bring clarity, **visiting someone, I/vaker, penetrates a barrier of isolation, bringing care, clarity, and attention to the situation.**

Seven years ago, the police paid a "**well check visit**" to my older sister. They found her in need of medical care, which Baruch Hashem, helped her. This is an example of a true **chesed** service a local policeman did.

Moshe taught on his last day on earth that all the people should stand before G-d to enter the Promised Land. If they violate the covenant they will be cursed, but if they return to G-d's ways, do **teshuva**, then G-d would take them back in love and bring them together again from the ends of the world. Moshe emphasized that this instruction was not beyond reach. He put before the Israelites life and death, blessing and curse, and exhorted them to choose life by loving G-d and heeding the commandments with the freedom of choice.

A definition of teshuva that lifted me with positivity was, "If we do what's right, we will enjoy blessings. And if we don't do what's right...**we can always change our ways and do teshuva**, return to G-d. The choice is in our hands.

On Moshe's last day, he gives the leadership to Yehoshua and presents the Levites a Torah scroll for instruction. Moshe commands the Jewish people to gather every seven years to hear the Torah read publicly. Though in the future they will stray from Torah, it will not be totally forgotten from 'the mouths of their offspring'. In 30:11-14 Moshe poignantly tells the Jewish people, "The mitzvah which I am commanding you this day is not too mysterious for you, and it's not far away. It's not in heaven that you should say, 'Who can go to heaven and get it for us and teach it to us so that we may do it?' It's not across the sea that you should say, 'Who can cross the sea and get it for us and teach it to us so that we may do it?' Rather it is very close to

you, - in your mouth and in your heart that you may do it.” Living out Adomye's commands is completely possible and within reach for us with the aid of Hashem...Have you ever felt that something was difficult to achieve but then realized that it was actually within your reach?

Chabad reminds us that all kinds of people stood then in unison affirming their commitment to Judaism and Hashem: leaders and followers, scholars and workers, woodchoppers and water-carriers. Jewish unity doesn't mean we're all the same. Each of us has a different background and role. Yet on Rosh Hashanah, we're reminded that beneath all those differences, we share the same essential connection.

As we prepare for the new year, may we all stand together, each in our own way, and enter the year ahead with greater purpose and joy!

A wonderful shabbos and a l'shana tova oometuka!