Congregation Etz Chaim

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

Synagogue Member

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

Parasha Vayeira
October 31, 2026 / 20th Cheshvan
Shabbos lik ner: **5:22 PM**
Shabbos Day
Shacharis **9:00** AM
Latest Shema 9:52 AM
Latest Tefilla 10:44 AM
Mincha 5:20 PM
Ma'ariv 6:22/6:51 PM
Set clocks back one hour for Standard time beginning

Shabbos Day at Young Israel
Mincha 5:23 PM
Maariv/Havdala 6:18/6:23 PM

Weekday at YI
Mincha/Maariv 4:15 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad
Mincha 5:15 PM
Maariv 6:22 PM
Weekday
From Mo. - Th. during "Standard Time" there will be no mincha services.

Rabbi Hartman's Sunday morning class is 9:30 a.m.
Zoom ID: 903 917 1656
Password: 170 smain

SHMIRAS HALASHON class **is Monday 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

MAZAL TOV

Mazal tov to Rabbi Nisson Dov and Tamar Miller on the engagement of their daughter, Eta, to Dovid Gross, son of Rabbi and Mrs. Gross of Baltimore. Mazal tov!

MAZAL TOV

Mazal tov to Chaim and Evelyn Stramer on the bar-mitzvah of their grandson, Sammy Marcus, son of Jonathan and Miriam Marcus! Mazal tov!

RABBI YISR0EL REISMAN

Rabbi Reisman's erudite and insightful teachings on the Book of Daniel will be this **motzei shabbos at 9:00 p.m**. All are invited to this live streamed Torah Conferencing Network (TCN) showing at Congregation Etz Chaim.

RABBI MENDY ROSENFELD

Rabbi Rosenfeld's parasha class is **Sunday at 7:30 p.m.** Chaim Stamer will send out the link.

ETZ CHAIM BOARD MEETING

Our next monthly **board meeting** will be ***THIS*** **Monday**, **November 2 at 6:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please RSVP to Janis at jbmonat@aol.com if the **link** is needed.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY SEMINAR

All are invited to a free seminar "**What Constitutes a Medical Emergency**", at Congregation Etz Chaim, 74 Billings Street, Sharon on **November 8 at 7:00 pm. Part I: "What Constitutes a Medical Emergency for adults and children**", presented by Doctor David Sloane, Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School. **Part II: "Principles of Medical Care on Shabbat",** presented by the Bostoner Rebbe, Rabbi Naftali Horowitz. This talk is free of charge but reservations are required and can be made by writing to George Monat at Etztreasurer@aol.com.

COMEDIAN

Rabbi Bob Alper, the world's only practicing rabbi doing stand-up comedy, will be performing **Sun., Nov. 15, 3:00 p.m., at B'nai Tikvah, 1301 Washington Street, Canton**. A reception will follow the performance. Tickets are $36 each at the door. Or register at: https://www.bnaitikvahma.org/event/comedy-night-with-rabbi-bob-alper.html.

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

Our next book is ***To the End of the Land*** by David Grossman. We meet Monday, **December 7**, at 7 p.m. Books are at the library's circulation desk. Questions or book suggestions? Contact: Merilee 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, Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bas Rachel; Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza; and Burton Cusner. May they all heal soon and fully!

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 information.

THOUGHTS on **Vayeira, ch. 18:1-22:24**

By Janis Monat

"Vayera," means "And He appeared" ch. 18:1 with Hashem revealing Himself to Abraham three days after his brit mila. This began the mitzvah defining a male Jew with this covenant…even at age ninety-nine! I know a Jewish born gentleman who laid tefillin for his first time at age 96. “No matter one’s age, when you sanctify your actions, you enable the angels and Hashem to live through you…and you bring heaven to earth!” A thought from my late mother’s rabbi.

Our parasha contains two beautiful ideas around the importance of a life. In the short story book **Chasidic Tales of the Holocaust** a certain rabbi would take early morning walks in the countryside. He passed many farms and would say hello, offering a **good morning** wish to each farmer he passed. Years went by and the Nazis invaded. He was sent to a concentration camp with a reputation of a very sadistic commander overseeing the “process”. While standing in a selection line the rabbi looked up and realized the officer conducting the selection was Herr Mueller, one of the farmers he always wished **good morning** to.

The rabbi began to repeat, tenuously, the greeting….and the Nazi recognized him. He responded,”Good morning, Rabbi”. He directed him to the right and saved his life. Reflecting on the experience years later, the elderly rabbi concluded: "***This is the power of a good morning greeting. A man should always greet his fellow man.*"** The rabbi was said to be Rabbi Spira. This was the **life-saving impact of simple human dignity and kindness** that saved **one life** in the darkest of circumstances.

My son, Yoni, pointed out that in the Rosh Hashana’s musaf amidah, there is the Unitaneh Tokef paragraph, where we say,”Ki**vakar**at roeh ehdro”, Like a shepherd **inspecting** his flock. This is another use of the word **“boker”.** Hashem is considering the soul of each one of us, “apportioning our fixed needs and inscribing our verdicts”. **Each life** has a meaning to Hashem.

Avraham in our parasha pleads with Hashem to save fifty righteous Sodomite **lives down** to ten people from the city’s destruction. Lot was the only name mentioned. Though he and his family didn’t have 10 righteous members they were saved. There is **strength in a name….and maybe a number.**

We see it at the end of this week’s parasha with the Akeida experience in which **one life makes a difference**. With the Talmud saying, “If one saves one life, it is as if one has saved an entire world; and if one destroys one life, it is as if you have destroyed an entire world” - with **Yitzchak** this was literally true. Without Yitzchak, God’s promised blessing to Avraham of a child and abundant descendants for all time would have been left unanswered. **Yitzchak was one life,** but he was also **the promise of an entire future world of Israel.** As with us, we are an entire world of feelings, thoughts, insights, and continue to be Avraham’s future children.

We say “Modeh Ani lefanecha…” I (give) thanks before You, for having faith in me to give me **this day.** Not everyone is given “this day”. To be able to say **Boker Tov** is a real gift!

With the 1998 movie “Paper Clips” a middle school teacher in a rural part of Tennessee tried to teach what a gift life is. To personalize the number of 6,000,000 lives lost in the Holocaust she asked the students bring in paper clips and count them to feel the gravity of each clip having its own counted number. Word got out and the school began to receive cartons and cartons of paper clips, eventually getting over 25 to 30 million of them from people all around the world, including celebrities, political leaders, and Holocaust survivors. The film received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Historical Programming and won multiple film festival awards. The paper clips are in a permanent memorial housed in an authentic German railcar in the Tennessee schoolyard. It is part of the Children’s Holocaust Museum.

May we always “see” vayeira, the good in a life and share it with a warm, “boker tov” and to our loved ones, at night a “lilah tov”, with respect and love.

A glorious autumnal shabbos!