

Congregation Etz Chaim



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

Synagogue
Member



Treasurer: George Monat
Secretary: Janis Monat
Member at Large: Robert Dell
Member at Large: Michael Ferber
Member at Large: Rabbi Chuni
Rappoport

Parasha Shemot

21st of Tevet

Lik ner 4:13 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM
Latest Shema 9:32 AM
Latest Tefilla 10:19 AM
Mincha 4:15 PM
Shabbos ends 5:18/5:44 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is **on hold until 1/25/26**

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain

SHMIRAS HALASHON class: M. & Th. 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 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

Weekday Young Israel

Mincha/Ma'ariv 4:13 PM
(T. & Th. Ma'ariv) 9:00 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Mincha 12:17 PM
Shabbos ends 5:18 PM
Maariv 5:33 PM

Sunday at Chabad

Mo. – Th.

Maariv 7:00 PM

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MAZAL TOV

Mazal tov to Naomi and Mark Chernin on the engagement of their granddaughter, Tziporah, to Yosef Kugel! Tziporah is Eli and Jenn's daughter. May we share in more simchas!

RABBI REISMAN

Watch as the **Book of Daniel** is brought to life with Rabbi Yisrael Reisman's famous thought-provoking *Navi class*, taking place every Saturday night at Congregation Etz Chaim. Beginning time is 7:30 p.m.

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

Our next read is **Melting Point: Family, Memory and the Search for a Promised Land** by Rachel Cockerell. We plan to meet on Monday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. Copies are available now at the Circulation Desk in the Sharon Public Library. Ask for the book for the Congregation Etz Chaim Book Club.

On June 7th, 1907, a ship packed with Russian Jews sets sail not to Jerusalem or New York, as many on board have dreamt, but to Texas. The man who persuades the passengers to go is David Jochelmann, Rachel Cockerell's great-grandfather. It marks the beginning of the Galveston Movement, a forgotten moment in history when 10,000 Jews fled to Texas in the lead-up to WWI.

The charismatic leader of the movement is Jochelmann's closest friend, Israel Zangwill, whose novels have made him famous across Europe and America. As Eastern Europe becomes infected by anti-Semitic violence, Zangwill embarks on a desperate search across the continents for a temporary from Australia to Canada, Angola to Antarctica. He reluctantly settles on Galveston, Texas. He fears the Jewish people will be absorbed into the great American melting pot, but there is no other hope.

In a highly inventive style, Cockerell uses exclusively source material to capture history as it unfolds, weaving together letters, diaries, memoirs, newspaper articles and interviews into a vivid account of those who were there. Melting Point follows Zangwill and the Jochelmann family through two world wars, to London, New York and Jerusalem - as their lives intertwine with some of the most memorable figures of the twentieth century, and each chooses whether to cling to their history or melt into their new surroundings. It is a story that asks what it means to belong, and what can be salvaged from the past.

Questions? Book Suggestions? Contact Merilee at melmaeir@gmail.com.

BOARD MEETING's next date is TBD

GUEST LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Rabbi Martin "Mendy" Rosenfeld of Teaneck, NJ, the Etz Chaim Yamim Noraim guest rabbi for the past several years, will begin a cost free, **interactive parasha class** **THIS Sunday, January 11** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Rabbi Rosenfeld presents warmly and with wisdom.

Kindly RSVP to Janis Monat, jbmonat@aol.com for the link. All are welcome!

PRAYERS FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL

May Hashem hear our prayers for the last deceased hostage to be returned now, the body of **Staff Sgt. Ran Gvili**, being held by Hamas. May the people of Israel be granted the gift of shalom! **Am Yisrael Chai**

REFUAH SHELAIMA

We continue to pray for the healing of the families mourning their loved ones murdered in the Bondi Beach massacre, the Brown University engineering classroom and the home of the MIT professor, Nuno F.G. Loureiro. We pray for the healing of all those injured in these attacks.

We pray for returned health to Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; George Monat's sister-in-law, Shayna Baila bas Rachel; Tzila Pass, Tzila Chava bat Rachel; and Marve Rudenstein, Menachem Yitzchak ben Raitza. May HaShem speed **their** full recovery.

THOUGHTS on parasha Shemos

by Janis Monat

"**Shemos**", names, begins our 2nd book of the chumash. It lists the **names** of Yaakov's sons, reminding us of who the tribes were. Yet the new Pharaoh of Egypt did not remember Yosef, the man who saved the entire country from famine, whose **name** was long recorded in the history books. Perhaps he chose not to remember based on his fear of being overrun by the populous Jewish people as the country was decades before by the Hyksos, so suggests Ramban. Pharaoh's steps of control were slavery in the form of a labor tax, ordering the midwives to secretly kill Hebrew male babies, and ultimately have Egyptians throw Jewish baby boys into the Nile River.

Though **Pharaoh forgot Yosef we all remember the bravery AND the names of two birthing midwives in Egypt, Shifra and Puah.** They quietly rebelled against his maniacal order, ch. 1:16, to kill newborn Hebrew males. "The midwives feared G-d and did not do what Pharaoh ordered them. They caused the boys to live!" ch.1:17. Interestingly the Torah makes a point of **not naming** the pharaoh.

Shifra and Puah's actions may be the first recorded instance of nonviolent civil disobedience in the Torah. Not only were they nonviolent, they were also protecting life.

The Iranian people are in this mode now. The Wall Street Journal's 1-8-26 opinion piece entitled, "The Iranian Protests Escalate", remarks, " Seven dollars a month is the Iranian regime's offer to its people as the currency plummets, inflation rises, and demonstrations enter their 12th day. Protests continue to spread to new cities and identify in chants the source of Iran's economic failures: the regime. **While Ayatollah Ali Khamenei scrounges \$7.00 for the Iranian citizen, he smuggled a billion dollars to Hezbollah in the first 10 months of 2025, according to the U.S. Treasury's top sanctions official. That's enough to pay each Lebanese terrorist a monthly salary of more than \$1,000. No wonder a popular protest chant is: "Neither Gaza nor Lebanon, my life for Iran.** The Khamenei regime is vulnerable, which makes it a moment for **the U.S. to do what it can to help the Iranian people who want a government that looks out for them, not Hezbollah."**

By having the commentators raise Shifra and Puah as role models in defying Pharaoh's orders, we learn that we also have the obligation to save lives.

Rabbi Sacks notes in his book, **Essays on Ethics**, "It took more than 3000 years for what the midwives did to become enshrined in international law, the new legal concept at the Nuremberg Trial, CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. The Nazi officers tried to excuse their behavior with "merely obeying orders". Moral laws may transcend and override the law of the state."

Rabbi Sacks also cites the American Revolution as justifying rebellion against a tyrannical king. He ends his essay with, "Good is rewarded, not punished because the universe, G-ds' work of art, is a world in which moral behavior is blessed and evil, briefly in the ascendant, is ultimately defeated."

Shira and Puah are two great heroines to teach humanity the moral limits of power. Maybe we should add their names to our shabbos blessings for our children to be like their commitment to life.

L'chaim!

A wonderful shabbos!