



# Congregation Etz Chaim

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

President: Joshua Maeir  
Treasurer: George Monat  
Secretary: Leonard Gerber, Ph.D.

Director: Susan Cable  
Director: Esther Dell  
Director: Tzila Pass

Synagogue  
Member



## Parasha Yisro

Shemos 18:1-20:23

20<sup>th</sup> of Shevat, 5782

January 22, 2022

## Friday Night

Lighting/mincha 4:27 PM

## Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest shema 9:31 AM

Latest tefilla 10:19 AM

Mincha 12:27 PM

Shabbos ends 5:32 PM

Rabbeinu Tam 5:59 PM

Maariv 6:15 PM

Erev Shabbos Jan. 28, 2022

Candle Lighting 4:26 PM

## Davening Times

~ 1/21 to 1/24 ~

**\*\*Before attending please  
review our COVID-19 policy and  
pre-register. The signup can be  
found on the shul website\*\***

**\*\*Minyan Signup\*\***

## Weekdays

\*Monday-Thurs joint

mincha/maariv at Young Israel

4:27 PM

Shacharis Sunday 8:00 AM

M, TH 6:05 AM

T, W, F 6:15 AM

Mincha Sunday 4:30 PM

## Torah Learning

Women's Shamiras Halashon

Daily: 9:05 a.m. to 9:40 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/8709646716>

password: bjn6R3

Rabbi Hartman's Pirke Avot

Sunday class WILL NOT MEET

this Sunday but will resume

soon.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170smain



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## MASKS REQUIRED

The Town of Sharon is requiring that face coverings be worn by all persons at all times when inside houses of worship, and among other public and private facilities open to the public.

The official letter from the Board of Health is posted on the window by the patio.

## KIDDUSH SPONSORSHIP

A full kiddush may be sponsored for \$100.00 and a shabbos "shout-out" for \$18.00. Please contact Esther Dell for dates at [edell53@hotmail.com](mailto:edell53@hotmail.com), and Janis Monat, [jbmonat@aol.com](mailto:jbmonat@aol.com) for printed wording.

## SHABBOS KIDDUSH

Thank you to our Kiddush sponsor this shabbos, Alice and Burton Cusner, in memory of Burton's father, Irving Isaac Cusner, Yitzhak ben Zundel HaKohen.

Another yartzeit is also being remembered. Nean and Marve mark the yartzeit of Nean's father, "In memory of our beloved father and grandfather, Chaim Ben Yaakov, whose warmth, charm and creativity we all miss so very much. May his neshama journey ever upward."

## RABBI REISMAN

Motsei shabbos, January 22nd, the Torah Conferencing Network (TNC) hosts Rabbi Yisroel Reisman, 7:30 p.m., with his insightful talks on the Book of Ezra. The "live" watching is at Etz Chaim. All are welcome!

## ROSH CHODESH TALK

Each month Congregation Etz Chaim has a Rosh Chodesh Program on Zoom where you provide your beverage, and we provide the d'var Torah.

Please contact Merilee if you are interested in sharing a talk for Rosh Chodesh Adar 1 or for other future months at [melmaeir@gmail.com](mailto:melmaeir@gmail.com).

## ETZ CHAIM'S BOOK CLUB

Our February book reading is *Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle* by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. The February date will be toward the end of the month.

Start-Up Nation addresses the trillion-dollar question: How is it that Israel -- a country of 7.1 million people, only 60 years old, surrounded by enemies, in a constant state of war since its founding, with no natural resources-- produces more start-up companies than large, peaceful, and stable nations like Japan, China, India, Korea, Canada and the UK?

With the savvy of foreign policy insiders, Senor and Singer examine the lessons of the country's adversity-driven culture, which flattens hierarchy and elevates informality-- all backed up by government policies

focused on innovation. In a world where economies as diverse as Ireland, Singapore and Dubai have tried to re-create the "Israel effect", there are entrepreneurial lessons well worth noting. As America reboots its own economy and can-do spirit, there's never been a better time to look at this remarkable and resilient nation for some impressive, surprising clues. (goodreads blurb)

For the eventual link and any questions or suggestions for future books, please contact Merilee Maeir at [melmaeir@gmail.com](mailto:melmaeir@gmail.com).

#### BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting, virtually, is Monday, January 24th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Please contact Josh Maeir for the Zoom link: [president@etzchaimsharon.com](mailto:president@etzchaimsharon.com)

RABBI BARRY HARTMAN'S Pirke Avot class WILL NOT MEET this Sunday. It will resume soon.

SHAMIRAS HALASHON CLASS continues Sunday, January 23, 2022, at 9:05 a.m. (See 1st page for Zoom number).

#### REFUAH SHELAIMA

Please daven for Tzila Pass and her brother, Avram Yeshayahu, b'nai Rachel; Rabbi Barry Hartman, Berel Dovid ben Sarah, Merilee Maeir, Malkah Menucha bas Hinda, and other friends and family who are going through life's changes and medical issues. May each person have their refuah shelaima with complete and speedy healing.

#### PARASHA NOTES for **Yisro**

By Janis Monat

"Yisro" is the name of Moshe's father-in-law. Yisro is referred to as "Chotein" Moshe, father-in law, in chapter 18:17, as an honor for being associated with Moshe.

Both Yisro and the Jewish people become converts in this parasha.

From ch. 18:9-12, "Jethro rejoiced over all the good that Hashem had done for Israel, that He had rescued them from under the hand of Egypt. He said, 'Blessed is Hashem, who has rescued you from the hand of Egypt.

**Now I know that Hashem is greater than all the gods**, for in the very matter in which the Egyptians had conspired against them....!'

Rashi explains that what impressed and convinced Yisro to become G-d fearing was Hashem doing to the Egyptians what they had conspired to do to the Jewish infants. Pharoah put out an edict to have the Jewish male babies drowned and Hashem had the Egyptian army drown in the Sea of Reeds, measure for measure. G-d's justice was so clear that every Jew attained the level of prophecy and understood God's ways. And Jethro, who was not himself part of the miracle, was able to understand it clearly enough to **declare the supremacy of God**.

Three months after leaving Egypt the Jewish people are camped at the base of Mt. Sinai. In chapter 19:4-6, G-d tells Moshe to say to the people: "You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, how I bore you on eagles'

wings and brought you to Me. Now then, if you will obey Me faithfully and keep My covenant, you shall be My treasured possession among all the peoples... You shall be to Me, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Hearing God’s words, the entire Jewish nation responded: **All that G-d has spoken we will do!**”

Three days later Moshe led the people to Har Sinai. The mountain was on fire with smoke rising from its peaks. The people heard the loud blasts of shofarim and were frightened. Moshe left them and climbed to the top of the mountain. There he received the Ten Commandments. When he brought them down he taught the Jewish people the commandments: to [believe in G-d](#), [not to worship idols](#) or take G-d’s [name](#) in vain, to [keep the Shabbat](#), [honor their parents](#), not to [murder](#), not to commit [adultery](#), not to [steal](#), and not to bear false [witness](#) or [covet](#) another’s property.

Both Yisro and the Jewish people were “converted” to the conviction, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Hashem is THE ONE, the one and only power that is, was, and will be. With the brit, covenant, Israel was born as a nation under the sovereignty of Hashem, and Yisro joined them.

Standing together as one nation for the first time at Har Sinai upon receiving the Torah we stood there **“as one person, with one heart.”**

The events last week at a synagogue in Texas, where four Jews were held hostage by a gunman threatening their lives unless his demands were met, reminds us of the importance of “Kol Yisrael-sareivim zeh lazeh—**all Jews are responsible for one another.**”

Wherever a Jew may be and in whatever situations they may find themselves, that person will always be part of the collective Jewish family. Though we are spread out around the globe, have many different backgrounds, and don’t all look the same, a Jew is a Jew, and when one Jew is in peril, it affects us all.

In our parasha we see sensitivity and caring by what Yisro tells Moshe, ch. 18:17-19, “The thing you are doing is not right, you will surely wear yourself out, and these people as well. The task is too heavy for you, you cannot do it alone.” Yisro convinces Moshe to appoint elders to help him lessen the people’s time and wait in getting answers to their questions as well as saving some of his energy. It was the start of a judicial system and one that has stayed with the Jewish people right to today, our court system!

Our recent holiday, Tu B’Shevat, also conveys ways to be responsible and considerate of other creations of Hashem, trees.

Genesis 2:15 (15) The Eternal God took the human being and placed him in the garden of Eden, **to work it and guard it.**

Kohelet Rabbah 7:13:1 has a similar message with a different ending, “When the Blessed Holy One created the first human, God took him and led him round all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said to him: ‘Look at My works, how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! And all that I have created, it was for you that I created it. Pay attention that you do not corrupt and destroy My world: **if you corrupt it, there is no one to repair it after you.**’

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago; the second best time is now. It’s never too late to begin something new, every seed we plant counts and is a gift to the next generation.

As we look out our windows seeds of a tree are buried deep in the earth. They are shivering in the frozen soil. Soon their shells will break apart, leaving them open and exposed. But if the seeds had direct light on them they wouldn’t grow, and if their shell stayed unyielding they wouldn’t grow.

Sometimes darkness and brokenness surround us before we can break through the surface. Sometimes the worst moments come before the greatest light.

This is what happened to the Israelites right before their redemption and the hostages right before their release. In both situations **the shehechyanu** prayer might well have been said thanking Hashem, “for granting us life and sustaining us and allowing us to arrive at this time.”

Our Torah, our TREE of LIFE, buds when we study it and teach what we’ve learned to others. It’s never too late to begin something new, every seed we plant counts and is a gift to the next generation. Like the trees’ limbs reaching for the sky, the more we learn the more motivated we will be to spread Hashem’s teachings and grow in our care for each other and all of Hashem’s creatures.

A wonderful shabbos!