



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 Shemos

Shemos 1:1-6:1

21st of Tevet, 5782

Dec. 25th, 2021

Friday Night

Lighting/mincha 3:59 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 8:45AM

Latest shema 9:28AM

Latest tefilla 10:13AM

Mincha 12:15 PM

Shabbos ends 5:06 PM

5:31PM

Maariv 5:45 PM

Erev Shabbos Dec. 31, 2021

Candle Lighting 3:59 PM

Davening Times

~ 12/24 to 1/2/22 ~

****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

4:00 PM

Shacharis Sunday 8:00 AM

M, Th Shacharis 6:05 AM

T, W 6:15 AM

F 6:30 AM

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

January 2, 2022.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170smain



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



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, and Janis Monat, jbmonat@aol.com for printed wording

RABBI REISMAN

Motsei shabbos, December 25th, 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

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

If you are interested in sharing thoughts for Rosh Chodesh Shevat in January or in any other future months, please contact Merilee at melmaeir@gmail.com.

ETZ CHAIM'S BOOK CLUB

Thank you to everyone who came to discuss our last book, *An Officer and a Spy*. Our next book will be *Start-Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle* by Dan Senor and Saul Singer. We shall meet in February at a date to be determined.

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)

Our book after *Start up Nation* will be *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn.

For the eventual link and any questions or suggestions for future books, please contact Merilee Maeir at melmaeir@gmail.com.

BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting, virtually, is this Monday, December 27th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Please contact Josh Maeir for the Zoom link: president@etzchaimsharon.com

RABBI BARRY HARTMAN'S Pirke Avot class WILL NOT MEET this Sunday. It will resume Jan. 2, '22 at 9:30 a.m. (See 1st page for Zoom info).

SHAMIRAS HALASHON CLASS continues Sunday, December 26th at 9:05 a.m. (See 1st page for Zoom number).

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Please daven for Tzila Pass' brother, Avram Yeshayahu ben Rachel; 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 Shemot

By Janis Monat

"Shemot" refers to the names of Yaakov's sons (and daughter) who came to Egypt.

Time has gone by and "A new king arose over Egypt, who did not know of Joseph", (Shemot ch. 1:8).

In this new era a decree has been made that all newborn Hebrew baby boys shall not be allowed to live.

Two brave nurse mid-wives, Shifra and Puah, defy this order and safely help deliver the Hebrew baby boys.

Around this time we have Moshe being born, set out on the Nile River, being saved by the pharaoh's daughter, Batya, and she raising him in the royal palace.

Due to his sister's intervention in his baby/toddler years Moshe gets to be nursed by Yocheved, his biological mother. She teaches him about his Hebrew identity and the belief in Hashem. On a walk outdoors as a young man he sees the suffering of his fellow Israelites.

An Egyptian task master is striking a Hebrew slave. Wanting to stop his kinsman from being beaten, Moshe "looked this way and that way and saw no one, so he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand", (Shemot ch. 2:11-12). He knew the consequences would be grave if his actions became known so he fled from Egypt. (Decades later in this parasha he encounters Hashem in the wilderness of Midian).

"Look(ing) this way and that" seems to mean that Moshe looked around to check if anyone was watching him to see what he was about to do. He wanted to kill the brutal Egyptian in secret and hide the body so he wouldn't be caught.

But another way to think of his actions is, "Isn't someone going to come and stop this abuse?" Looking for someone to intervene "he looked this way and that". Who is going to help this beaten down person? A law officer? Seeing no one is offering to assist he realizes he will have to help this slave. He will have to be that "someone".

Not only does Moshe witness the beating of a fellow Israelite but maybe sees the “by-stander” - one who sees or hears and does nothing. Maybe he felt called by G-d to act when no one else was willing to do so.

The Midrash states: “He saw that there was no one”, meaning Moshe saw that there was no one who was impassioned by God to strike back at the Egyptian. (Exodus Rabbah 1:28-29).

I recall the story from the 1960's when a young woman, Kitty Genovese, was murdered in plain sight of and in hearing range of her cries by neighbors in NYC. At least one person called the police. He was a hero. (newyorker.com/magazine/2014/03/10/a-call-for-help). But many others were not.

Why don't some people want to get involved? Why is it assumed that if we are standing in a crowd, someone else will take care of the problem?

An interesting example is when someone is getting trained in first aid or CPR they are taught to **not** say, “Someone call an ambulance”, because most of the time people might just stand there. The helper is to point directly to someone, look at them and say, “You, call an ambulance.”

Many of Hashem's commandments are to us in the second person singular: “You shall not stand by while your neighbor bleeds. You shall leave food for the poor. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” It's as if Hashem is pointing a finger at us and saying, “You, yes, you, sitting right there -this is the right to do.”

Pirke Avot 2:6 says, “In a place where there are no men, strive to be a man.”

Moses did not see anyone around him to act like a human being and so he stepped forward.

May we be able to follow his example and be a “mensch” in stepping forward when we are faced with life's challenges.

Let's try to have our “shem”, our name, be linked with the “Shemot” of our forefathers and mothers and may we pray for this strength.

A peaceful wonderful shabbos!