



# Congregation Etz Chaim

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

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

Synagogue  
Member



## Parasha Ki Teitzei, Elul 15

Sept. 10, 2022

Erev Shabbos:

Plag/early mincha 5:45 PM

Candle lighting 6:46 PM

Nightfall 7:47 PM

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest shema 9:40 AM

Latest tefilla 10:34AM

Mincha at YI 6:47 PM

“ Chabad 6:35 PM

Shabbos ends 7:46/8:15PM

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

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

### Sunday-Thursday

**Su.** 8:00 AM

M-F 6:15 AM

**Mincha at YI** 6:47 PM

**Mincha at Chabad** 6:40 PM

## TORAH LEARNING

Shamiras Halashon class will be back for an “encore!” We hope to meet after the chagim once a week. Day to be decided.

Rabbi Hartman’s Pirke Avot class will resume this Sunday at 9:30 a.m., Sept. 11.

Zoom ID: 903917 1656

Password: 170smain

**BOARD MEETING**

Our next board meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Janis Monat for the zoom link. People are invited to join. [jbmonat@aol.com](mailto:jbmonat@aol.com)

**A SIP OF TORAH**

Cong. Etz Chaim is welcoming a Cheshvan speaker for the end of October. Please contact Merilee Maeir [melmaeir@gmail.com](mailto:melmaeir@gmail.com). to be that one!

**END OF SUMMER PICNIC THANKS**

Bravo to Cindy Gerber for making our deli luncheon a rousing success, sour pickles, and all! Invaluable helpers were (in alphabetical order): Bob and Esther Dell, Len and Cindy Gerber, Mel Huff, Hilary Miller, George, Janis and Yoni Monat, Chuni and Leah Rappoport, and David Yarmush. Thank you to our wonderful community friends for coming, conversing, and enjoying the deli delights, along with taking a few pumps on the backyard swing! Mazal tov to the Maeirs on their wedding anniversary celebrated by all!

**ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB**

Join the Etz Chaim Book Club on Monday, **October 24**, to discuss Sholom Mordechai Rubashkin: The Inside Story by Getzel Rubashkin.

The story of Sholom Rubashkin is one of faith and trust in Hashem, despite the destruction of a life's work and in the face of seemingly inevitable doom. It's a story of unflagging strength behind bars and under the weight of a decades-long prison sentence. It's the story of a person's clarity and ability to rise above the daily struggles and see in them a Divine mission.

Who is Sholom Rubashkin? How did he land in jail with a near life-sentence, incriminated by the very people for whom he'd done so much good? What was the secret of his soaring faith? How did he survive—no, thrive!—as a Jew in the ugliness of a place called prison?

For the first time ever, Sholom Mordechai Rubashkin's personal struggle during his seemingly never-ending saga is recounted, from start to finish, with many firsthand details and much of the emotion he and his family actually experienced. This eye-opening account of Jewish survival in a tough federal prison will leave you spellbound, inspired, and grateful to be a member of the Jewish nation.

Sholom Rubashkin's saga—from his initial arrest until, at long last, his thrilling release—is not only his own. It is all of Klal Yisrael's. And his triumph of trust and faith in Hashem can be all of ours to emulate, as well.

(publisher blurb)

This book is NOT in the OCLN system. We have a limited number of copies, and if you want one, please contact Susan Cable at [SusanPCable@yahoo.com](mailto:SusanPCable@yahoo.com).

She'll let you know when to pick up a copy to borrow.

Comments? Questions? Suggestions for future reads? Contact Merilee at [melmaeir@gmail.com](mailto:melmaeir@gmail.com)

**REFUAH SHELAIMA**

Please continue davening for Tzila Chava Pass and her brother, Avram Yeshayahu, b'nai Rachel; Alan Pass, Asher Anshel ben Miriam; Rabbi Barry Hartman, Berel Dovid ben Sarah; Janis Monat's mother, Rivka Petal bas Chana; Merilee Maeir, Malka Menucha bat Hinda; Tuvia Dovid ben Malkah Menucha; Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel

Chana bas Menucha; Chana Rivka Dana bas Neshah; Esther Dell, Esther bat Raizel, Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; the sons of Leisha Martin, Yosef Eliyahu ben Ruth and Yisrael Yitzchak ben Ruth, and other friends and family who are going through medical issues. May each person have their refuah shelaima with complete and speedy healing.

### Thoughts on Ki Teitzei ch. 21:10-25:19

by Janis Monat

At the heart of this week's parasha is the question of what kind of a person do we want to be? Ki Teitzei emphasizes Judaism's respect and sanctity for life. On Yom Kippur morning we read G-d's command, "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day that I have set before you: life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, therefore, that you and your descendants may live". (Deuteronomy 30:19)

How do we respect life we live and those of others?

We begin with an animal. We are to send away a mother bird before taking her eggs. Nachmanides says the reason is the value of "tzar ba'alei chayim," not to cause needless pain to a creature. (Ramban on Deuteronomy 22:6-7). If there is a way to limit suffering, even toward animals, we should do it. Cruelty to animals is against Jewish law. Maimonides concludes in Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Rotze'ah 13:2, 14 that if we can learn to be kind to a bird, then hopefully we can learn to be kind to another human being.

Another commandment in this parasha of 72 mitzvot according to the counting of Maimonides is that when we build a new house, we should make sure to erect a fence around its roof. Ancient people had flat roofs and, in the summer, people would sleep up there to cool off. The Torah insists that everyone needs to have a fence around their roof to keep people from accidentally falling off.

One perhaps harder commandment is that if you are traveling on a road and see a person whom you consider to be your enemy and they have had an accident, you are obliged to help him. If his donkey has fallen and cannot get up under its load, you must stop and help lift it.

The Torah has insight into our human nature and we have to ask ourselves: what kind of person we want to be? Cruel or kind to animals? Try to make our homes safe? Rise above a quarrel to be helpful or make a gesture of shalom? The answer can be no or yes.

On Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, we sit in judgment of ourselves and try to see ourselves as G-d sees us. With these above mitzvot and so many more in this parasha, such as equal weights and measurements in business, we can assess how much we have grown or need to grow. God's standards are rooted in compassion and extend to us. So be it in ours to others.

In the Babylonian Talmud, Brachot 7a, our Sages state that G-d prays, "May it be My will that My **mercy** should conquer My anger and prevail over all My other middot."

Think of a time when we needed help and a friend, or a stranger came to our assistance. It may take a moment, but its effect can last a life time.

In the 13 attributes of G-d, mercy or "**rachamim**" is the first adjective. "Adomye, Adomye, el **rachum** v'chanun, erech apayim, v'rav chesed v'emet.....", Hashem, Hashem, G-d, **compassionate** and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in kindness and truth.....", (Exodus, parasha Shemot, 34:6-7).

A shabbos of rachamim, compassion, and love. Hashem is in the field and so are our opportunities to give.