



Congregation Etz Chaim

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

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

Synagogue
Member



Parasha Bamidbar, 5 Sivan

June 3-June 6, 2022

Erev Shabbos

Plag, earliest mincha 6:42 PM

Candle lighting,

latest mincha 7:57 PM

Shabbos Day **

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest shema 8:56 AM

Latest tefilla 10:12AM

Shabbos ends & Shavuos

begins: 9:08 PM

COMPLETE CHAG LISTING:

Erev shabbos

6:42 pm Plag, earliest mincha

7:57 pm Candle lighting, latest mincha

Shabbos Day

8:56 am latest shema

9:00 am shacharis

10:12 am latest shacharis

9:08 pm shabbat ends Shavuos begins

Shavuos day 1

8:56 am latest shema

9:00 am shacharis

10:12 am latest shacharis

9:09 pm 2nd day begins

Shavuos day 2

8:56 am latest shema

9:00 am shacharis

10:12 am latest shacharis

Yizkor not before 10:30 am

9:10 pm shavuos ends

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

****Minyan Signup****

Sunday-Thursday

Shacharis of Shavuos

Su & Mo. 9:00 AM

T, W, F 6:15AM

Thursday 6:05AM

Mincha at YI 8:15PM

Shamiras Halashon is **T-F** (for this week)

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

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

password: bjn6R3

Rabbi Hartman's Pirke Avot

Sunday, June 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170smain

COVID -19 UPDATE:

Norfolk County COVID-19 Community level is now at **High Risk**. These are the recommendations from the Sharon Board of Health:

We strongly recommend that **everyone** two years of age and older wear a well-fitting, high-quality mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status.

- If you are immunocompromised or at high risk of severe illness, we recommend you wear a mask or respirator (e.g., a N95 or KN95) and consider additional precautions, such as avoiding nonessential indoor activities. Talk with your individual health care provider about what additional precautions you should take.

ROSH CHODESH – A Sip of Torah THANKS

Thank you, **Yoni Monat**, for sharing your insights and teachings for **Rosh Chodesh Sivan**, this past Monday. Some parts are contained in the **parasha notes** further down in the announcements.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

To vote on our next slate of board members we will be meeting virtually Sunday, June 26th at 10:00 A.M.

Please RSVP to Janis Monat to receive the link, jbmonat@aol.com. Contact Treasurer George Monat if you have questions about your membership status

BOARD MEETING

Our upcoming board meeting, virtually, will be Tuesday, June 28 at 7:30 p.m. Our new board will join our ending board to be welcomed. Please contact Josh Maeir for the Zoom link: president@etzchaimsharon.com

SHAVUOT KIDDUSH LUNCHEON

On the second day of Shavuot, Monday, June 6, please join the Etz Chaim community in the celebration of receiving the Aserot Dibrot, The Ten Commandments, and **RSVP** for our kiddush luncheon. With no charge kindly RSVP to Esther Dell via e-mail: edell53@hotmail.com or phone her by Thursday, 617-767-6921 for us to plan quantities of food to order. 😊 **We are thrilled to have Rabbi Dov Huff join us in sharing his inspiring words for the chag.**

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

For our next book, we are reading **Spies of No Country: Secret Lives of the Birth of Israel** by Matti Friedman, on **Monday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m.** Award-winning writer Matti Friedman's tale of Israel's first spies has all the tropes of an espionage novel, including duplicity, betrayal, disguise, clandestine meetings, the bluff, and the double bluff -- but it's all true!

The four spies at the center of this story were part of a ragtag unit known as the Arab Section, conceived during World War II by British spies and Jewish militia leaders in Palestine. Intended to gather intelligence and carry out sabotage and assassinations, the unit consisted of Jews who were native to the Arab world and could thus easily assume Arab identities. In 1948, with Israel's existence in the balance during the War of Independence, our spies went undercover in Beirut, where they spent the next two years operating out of a kiosk, collecting intelligence, and sending messages back to Israel via a radio whose antenna was disguised as

a clothesline. While performing their dangerous work these men were often unsure to whom they were reporting, and sometimes even who they'd become. Of the dozen spies in the Arab Section at the war's outbreak, five were caught and executed. But in the end the Arab Section would emerge, improbably, as the nucleus of the Mossad, Israel's vaunted intelligence agency. [Goodreads blurb]

Questions? Suggestions for future reads? Contact Merilee at melmaeir@gmail.com.

SHAMIRAS HALASHON CLASS continues **Tuesday, June 7, 2022**, at 9:05 a.m. (See 1st page for Zoom number). The classes are Monday – Friday.

RABBI BARRY HARTMAN'S Pirke Avot class will meet **Sunday, June 12** at 9:30 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/8709646716> password: bjn6R3

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Please daven for ****Tzila Chava** and her brother, Avram Yeshayahu, b'nai Rachel; Alan Pass, Asher Anshel ben Miriam; Rabbi Barry Hartman, Berel Dovid ben Sarah; Malka Menucha bat Hinda; Tuvia Dovid ben Malkah Menucha; Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Susan Cable, Shulamit bat Braina Bashi; Chana Rivka Dana bas Nesha; 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 life's changes and medical issues. May each person have their refuah shelaima with complete and speedy healing.

****Tzila is now recuperating at Encompass Health Rehab in Braintree, Baruch Hashem!** Donations can be made to the rabbi's discretionary fund to help support Alan at this time with various needs.

Please make your check out to Etz Chaim and send it to the treasurer, George Monat. The checks can be sent by postal mail or put in the Treasurer's box in the back of the green room with a memo note: **"Discretionary Fund"**.

Alan will accept visitors at his home. Please contact Chaya Levin at **(718) 549-0599** to arrange this.

Thoughts on Bamidbar, Numbers 1:1-4:20

by Janis Monat and Yoni Monat

Bamidbar, "in the desert", begins with Hashem commanding Moshe to take a census of the men over the age of twenty, totaling 603,550 people, excluding 22,000 Levites, who could bear arms. The Levites are the only tribe of the 12 that are not counted in the census, as they do not take up arms, but are exclusively responsible for the sanctuary and its rituals. Interestingly our 4th book of the Torah, Bamidbar, begins on the **1st day of the 2nd month of the 2nd year** after the Jewish people left Egypt. Chronologically the second book of the Chumash, Exodus/Shemot, concludes with the setting up of the mishkan, the portable sanctuary, on the **1st day of the 1st month of the 2nd year** after we left Egypt, just one month before!

Parasha notes from Yoni Monat

An idea in a d'var Torah from R' Yaakov Kamenetsky was about the Jews leaving Egypt and being counted as one big group. Why in this parashas of Bamidbar were they counted individually, by "shevet" tribe? For example, the number of people in Reuven were listed separately from Shimon who were separately listed from Yehudah, etc.

Another thought is after the “Klal Yisroel”, the Jewish people, left Egypt in one large group and went into the “midbar”, desert. Why did they there have special “degalim”, flags, indicating locations? For example, Yehudah’s was to the east, Reuven’s was to the south, Ephraim’s was to the west, and Dan’s was to the north. The one big group was now sectioned off.

R’ Yaakov answers that when we left Mitzrayim, we needed to be all together/ counted together. In the Midbar we received the Torah, as symbolized by the Aron holding the Luchos. Now with the Torah as our guide, our centerpiece, there can be room for individualism, as symbolized by the separate counting and placement of the tribes. For when we left “Mitzrayim”, Egypt, we did not have the Torah. There were concerns of having non-spiritually healthy individualism if we acted on our own, or were in small groups by ourselves, given that we did not yet have the Torah to guide us. Staying together was necessary.

In my recent Rosh Chodesh talk I brought out one example of individualism, centered by the Torah, being my father’s great-grandfather, R’ Avrohom Yitzchok Scheinzeit, whose yahrzeit was on the first of the “sheloshes yemei hahagbalah”, the first of the three days to get ready for Har Sinai, on “gimel”, the third of Sivan.

On one hand, he was very devoted to his family. He worked hard as a butcher to provide for his seven children. His wife died young, so he was raising them all by himself, with the help of his two older daughters, Ethyl and Ruth. On the other hand, he was very committed to his Torah learning. He made the time, whether it was before work, during down time, or at night, or maybe at all of the above, to learn Gemara so much so that during the course of his lifetime, he finished Sha”s six times! Many people do not finish Sha”s a single time in their lifetimes! Torah learning was something that mattered a lot to him.

And on a third note, he was dedicated to the Klal Yisroel. He was very active in the “Chevra Kaddisha”, the Jewish burial society. He was so involved that when he himself was niftar, the Chevra Kaddisha donated his plot for free! So we see one man, who focused his efforts in a multitude of ways to care for his family, learn Torah, and care for the Klal Yisroel. All of his actions were centered around the Torah.

We **all** have the Torah, mitzvos, and keeping “halacha”, laws, as our center piece. We need to be knowledgeable to keep the mitzvos, and halacha. From that, there are **individual ways** that one can serve Hashem. One person may learn Gemara while another learns Mishnayos, a third learns Chumash, and another does acts of gemilut chasadim. A person should try to learn with as much “ameilus”, engrossment, as he can. One may be involved with helping his family, while another may be more involved with helping the shul or community. Each person has different “netios”, different inclinations, which push him towards certain activities in “avodas Hashem”, service to Hashem, and he should follow them as long as he is being guided by the Torah and keeping its laws.

May we be “zoche”, merited, to find our individual path and keep the Torah as our rudder to serve Hashem in the best way we can.

Thoughts on Shavuos

We Jews are a varied and diverse bunch. We don’t all eat the same foods, enjoy the same activities, or even speak the same languages.

Yet, we are undeniably one people, inextricably bound together. And the cords that connect us are entwined in the Torah, the Divine creed for Jewish life, belief, and scholarship, which we have studied, treasured, and expounded upon for 3,300 years.

Sunday, June 5, is the first day of Shavuot, when we gather in synagogue to hear the Ten Commandments celebrating our essential bond to the Torah, G-d, and each other. And like that historic moment at Sinai, when every single Jewish soul was present, let us all—from bubbies to babies—do our utmost to do what Hillel taught, “Viahavta Lareicha Kamocho”, love your fellow as you love yourself!

A wonderful shabbos and a “receptive” Shavuos!