



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



Parsha Devarim, Av 9

August 6, 2022

Erev Shabbos:

Plag/early mincha 6:30 PM

Candle lighting 7:40 PM

Nightfall 8:46 PM

Shabbos Day **

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest shema 9:16 AM

Latest tefilla 10:27AM

Sunset/fast begins 7:57 PM

(Finish 3rd meal & bench by
this time.)

Maariv/Eicha 9:39 PM

Tisha B'Av Sunday

Shacharis 8:00 a.m.

Midday 12:50 p.m.

Mincha 7:40 p.m.

Fast ends 8:48 p.m.

Rebbeinu Tam 9:09 p.m.

****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 6:15AM

Mincha at YI 7:41 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Shamiras Halashon class is this
Monday at 9:30 a.m. Hope to
see you then!

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

password: bjn6R3

Rabbi Hartman's Pirke Avot
class is on hiatus until after
Labor Day.

TISHA B'AV MOVIES:

The Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation has put together a meaningful and inspiring Tisha B'Av program for Etz Chaim on Sunday, August 7th (10th of Av). The topic is: **Kavod Habrios- Discover the Priceless Value of Every Person – Including Yourself!**

You can use the website tishabav.global for the pay per view option to watch it in your home for a donation of \$18.00 for CCHF or **come and watch it at Etz Chaim from 1:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. with the below showings around the topic:**

Kavod Habrios - Discover the Priceless Value of Every Person - Including Yourself

Children's Program title: The Yarak Effect 1:00 p.m. at the shul (for ages 7 +)

Program A speakers: Rav Elya Brudny, Rabbi Yissocher Frand, Rabbi Paysach Krohn **2:30 p.m. at the shul;**

Women's Panel: Mrs. Miriam Swerdlov MC, Mrs. Debbie Selengut, Mrs. Yael Gellis, Mrs. Yocheved Davidowitz **4:30 p.m. at the shul.**

Program B speakers: Rabbi Ephraim Eliyahu Shapiro, Rabbi Yisroel Majeski, Charlie Harary, with Message by HaGoan HaRav Shmuel Kamenetsky, z.l. **6:00 p.m. at the shul**

Thank you to the families who made large donations to the CCHF for the community of Etz Chaim, and in memory of the yartzeits of their loved ones, enabling us to show the films at our shul on Tisha B'Av.

MAZAL TOV!

We are wishing an enormous Mazal Tov to David Weidmann on his upcoming marriage this coming Monday, August 8th, to Anna Levin!! The wedding will take place in Israel. May David and Anna be blessed with many years of happiness, love, brachos, and good health! Much love from your Etz Chaim family!

RABBI BARRY HARTMAN'S Pirke Avot class is on hiatus until after Labor Day.

SHMIRAS HALASHON class NEW TIME: Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and Mondays at 9:30 a.m.

<https://zoom.us/j/8709646716> Password: bjn6R3 (THIS SUNDAY NO CLASS DUE TO TISHA B'AV)

BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting will be Tuesday, August 30 at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Janis Monat for the zoom link. People are invited to share ideas. jbmonat@aol.com

3 At-large positions are still available for your interest!

A SIP OF TORAH

We are now looking for our Rosh Chodesh **Elul** speaker at this special time of year. Please contact Merilee Maeir at melmaeir@gmail.com with your thoughts and ideas for future Rosh Chodesh talks.

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB

Thank you to the participants who came to our book club to discuss t **All Other Nights** by Dara Horn. It was a wrenching historical time for our country.

A pivotal time for the Jewish people was in 2008 with the arrest of Sholom Rubashkin associated with the Postville, Iowa kosher slaughtering facility and meat packing plant. Our book club will read the book by his son: **The Inside Story** by Getzel Rubashkin.

For nearly a decade, it was the court case at the forefront of every Jew's mind. It was what kept Klal Yisrael's insides churning, and our heartfelt tefillos going strong. It's the story of Sholom Rubashkin, and it has never been told so intimately and on such a personal level--until now. 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.

For our next book club discussion's link, please contact Merilee at melmaeir@gmail.com.

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; 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 life's changes and medical issues. May each person have their refuah shelaima with complete and speedy healing.

Thoughts for Devarim, Devarim 1:1-3:22

by Janis Monat

In our fifth book of the Chumash, Devarim, we have Moshe's last words recounting the events and battles that have led to this day and the assurance of Hashem's protection for the Jewish people as they embark upon their conquest of Canaan, "You shall not fear them, for Adomye, your G-d, does battle for you", ch. 1:21

Moshe is recounting the 42 journeys to the second generation of the Jewish people. The first generation has died out due to their making of and praying to the Golden Calf, and their belief in the 10 spies' negative report of the land and its people causing the loss of their commitment to take the Promised Land

Part of Moshe's "recounting" was in rebuke form. But if the "generation of the spies" had already perished who, exactly was he rebuking?

The Sefas Emes explains that every generation has an obligation to repair the "aveiros", sins, of the previous generations. To reap the benefits of having the merits of our ancestors we have to take responsibility for their sins as well.

In the Talmud Yerushalmi, Yoma 5a, we read "any generation in which the Temple was not rebuilt, it is as if they have personally destroyed it". If the Bais Hamikdash is not rebuilt this year, then we are to bear the responsibility for its destruction nearly 2000 years ago.

For what reasons?

The Sefas Emes answers that we are still committing the very same sins that our ancestors committed. And when we repair them only then will the Bais Hamikdash be rebuilt. This is why Moshe was rebuking the second generation for actions which they did not commit. It was their task to fix what their parents' faults were and to bring redemption to themselves and to the future Jewish people.

Rabbi Mendel Hirsch, son of Samson Raphael Hirsch, comments on the vision of the prophet in our haftarah, Isaiah, 1:1-27. It's not for the Bais Hamikdash's destruction that Isaiah laments but for the underlying cause: *sinat chinam*, senseless hatred. "Are the present Jewish people so imbued with the Jewish spirit, so filled with the Jewish way of thinking, with knowledge of Judaism, and with knowledge of the deep contents of the Torah that this could be a worthy environment for a temple of God to be erected in? Does not the gulf between Israel and its God yawn perhaps wider than ever?" (Written in the 1800's).

I have been learning the laws of *Shamiras Halashon*, the teachings of the Chofetz Chaim, through his books read diligently by Susan Cable for the past few years. What we learned today ties in with Tisha B'Av and our parasha. The analogy is that a person is walking along the beach and finds gems that have been washed ashore. He/she starts to pick them up, despite the quantity of gems and the possibility that the ocean waves will bring more to the beach. Does the person get discouraged because s/he can't possibly pick up all the gems? We need to be grateful for each treasure in and of itself.

Our gems are our words.

To temper the urge to speak "lashon hara", evil speech, we can try to become aware of what seems to others obviously hurtful speech and the unspoken negative innuendos coming from our gestures. We can try hour by hour, minute by minute, day by day to be inspired in our lifelong task to use "lashon hatov", good language. As we pick up one gem at a time, we can treasure each person by giving them the benefit of the doubt, bringing to mind their positive attributes, and consider that sometimes we are only hearing one side of the story....

In knowing Moshe's ending, 37 days from this day, the 7th of Adar, let's reflect on our own lives. We exist for a certain time. Let's try to feel Hashem's blessings of enjoying the glorious miracles around us; waking up each morning and thanking Hashem for this new day. Wherever we are, we can try to love with all of our heart and forgive easily. With Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur coming we can take stock of the next page in our Book of Life.

Like Moshe we cannot take anything with us. His legacy are his words, and we are its inheritors. What we leave are our words and maybe they will make a difference in someone else's life.

For this Tisha B'Av time may our words and actions sincerely enhance our relationships, rebuild the Temple, our city, and our land, **in our time**, "Bimheira b'yameinu, bizman hazeh. May they come speedily in our days!

A shabbos of pausing and appreciating our stage in life's journeys and make things even better!