



Congregation Etz Chaim

Rabbi Yonatan Gorin

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

Synagogue
Member



President: Joshua Maier
Treasurer: Susan Cable
Secretary: Leonard Gerber, Ph.D.

Director: Michael Ferber
Director: Janis B. Monat
Director: Tzila Pass

Parshas Bamidbar

Sivan 4, 5781

May 15, 2021

48th Day of the Omer

Friday Night

Candle Lighting 6:27-7:40 PM

Shabbos Day

Latest Shema 9:03AM
Latest Shacharis 10:15AM
Sunset 7:59PM
Shabbos Ends 8:48PM

Erev Shabbos May 21st

Candle Lighting 7:46PM

Davening Times

~ 5/14 - 5/16 ~

****Minyan Signup****

Shabbos

Friday Night Mincha 7:40PM
Shacharis 9:00AM
Mincha 7:35PM
Maariv 8:48PM

Sunday

Shacharis 8:00AM

***See Separate Shavuot
Schedule***

Torah Learning

Women's Shmiras HaLashon

Daily 9:05AM

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

Password: bjn6R3

Rabbi Hartman's Class

(Topic: Pirkei Avot)

Sunday 9:30AM

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170smain

~ Announcements ~

DRASHA SPONSORSHIP

This week's drasha is sponsored by the **Goldblatt** family in honor of Shaya and David Weidmann on the Israeli Armed Forces Day this Shabbos May 15th. They are currently serving in the IDF as lone soldiers. Shaya is in the Army and David is in the Air Force. We are so proud of you and admire the dedication you have to serve in the IDF. Wishing both of you and all current service members in the armed forces, safety, good health and strength.

SHMIRAS HALASHON STUDY GROUP

A Shmiras HaLashon 15-minute daily study group invites interested women to join Sunday – Friday mornings from 9:05 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. You can learn every day or whenever your schedule allows. It is led by Susan Cable. By learning two Shmiras HaLashon laws a day you can become more aware of your speech and its impact on others.

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

Password: bjn6R3

RABBI HARTMAN'S CLASS

Rabbi Hartman's class will meet this Sunday at 9:30. Topic: Pirkei Avot - Ethics of Our Fathers.

Please use the following link to sign in:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9039171656?pwd=ZW5vbHhVWXXVSMGJZRGZlYmNwL3JpQT09>

PLANNING MEETING

Next planning meeting is Wednesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join! Use the Chofetz Chaim link.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

June 6th, Sunday, at 5:30 p.m. is our Congregational Meeting. Please pay your dues by May 31st. We will be voting on a new slate of board members. Both men and women are encouraged to run for ALL positions.

HOLD THE DATE - 25TH GALA EVENT

Sunday, June 13th at 6:00 p.m. is our 25th gala event, virtually honoring Rabbi Yonatan Gorin for his 3 years with us and to offer much nachas and success for the family's new endeavors. Nina Rogoff will receive the Myron Kaufmann Service award. We will be offering Kosher Wok individually packaged meals that can be picked up in the shul's parking lot in plenty of time before our event begins.

Please help the shul celebrate its 25th year in a committed way by placing an ad in the shul's virtual ad book and reserve your dinner options by going to our website: etzchaimsharon.com. The Annual Dinner committee is looking forward to hearing from you all!

ETZ CHAIM'S BOOK CLUB

Our next Etz Chaim Book Club will be on Monday, June 14 at 7pm. We have chosen:

Here I am: Short Stories by [Linda J. Goldberg](#)

"All of my stories are fiction, inspired by real events and real people. I wrote many of the stories the way I wished life had happened. In sharing them, I want to take you back to the place where I grew up: the streets, the triple-decker homes, and people of Jewish Boston. The book is accompanied by period photos."

As this book is not available in OCLN, the author will provide it to the readers free of charge. She will also be joining us for the discussion. This book will be provided to readers free of charge, courtesy of the author.

Please contact Merilee Maeir at melmaeir@gmail.com if you would like a copy of the book. B"H I shall be delivering them beginning next week.

BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, June 23, at 5:00 p.m.

DRASHA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Our Etz Chaim community has the Rabbi's weekly Shabbat Drasha video for sponsorships. The Rabbi will open his broadcast with the messages of sponsorship. We would like to ask for a donation of \$18 to Etz Chaim per message. If you would like to sponsor this in honor of a yahrtzeit of a loved one, a simcha in the family or just to offer your gratitude, please email Janis Monat with your message at jbmonat@aol.com and send a donation to the shul via PayPal through the shul's website or mail your donation to the shul, 74 Billings Street, Att: the Treasurer.

REFUAH SHELAIMA

Please daven for Tzila Pass' brother, Avram Yeshayahu ben Rachel; Yonatan Arie ben Yona Shoshana, and for all those who need our prayers for a complete and speedy recovery.

PARSHA NOTE – Bamidbar by Janis Monat

Bamidbar, in the desert, was where our ancestors as a new nation spent 40 years journeying to their Homeland. Hashem gave the Jewish people the Torah, Matan Torah, in this wilderness. One wonders why G-d did not give the Torah to the Jews in the Land of Milk and Honey?

Had G-d presented the Torah to the Jewish people in the land of Israel **on** whose tribal territory would it have been given? A particular tribe might have felt more coveted if the Jewish people had received it on their land. The purpose of the Matan Torah was and is to be given to all Jews whose souls lived before, are living now, and will in the future.

Numbers Rabbah, Chukat, 19:26 says, “No Jew is superior to another and all Jews have the responsibility for carrying out the commandments of the Torah”. This is the reason Hashem selected the desert as a place for giving the Torah. It is for all people. The Rabbis contend that the barren midbar belonged to no one.

And this brings us to Shavuot, this Sunday night to Tuesday night, when we will celebrate receiving the Torah in the midbar as if we were hearing the Ten Commandments read for the first time!

Interestingly the Torah’s description of the Jewish People’s preparation is in the singular: “ויהן שם ישראל נגד ההר” – “Vayichan”, “and he camped there”. Rashi explains it was G-d’s intention to show that the Jewish people receiving the Torah was “כאיש אחד בלב אחד,” “like one person with one heart”. Unity was the important midda/character trait of the Jewish people.

In the light of being a single body we can feel the pain when any one of us is hurt. The intensely dangerous situation that our fellow Israeli brethren are in right now pains us very much. In a matter of days our stunned attention turned from the national tragedy at Mount Meron to the present onslaught of Hamas-fired rockets being shot at civilian centers throughout southern and central Israel. Our hearts break at the image of our brothers and sisters in Israel huddled in bomb shelters, experiencing a terrorist barrage that no one should be forced to endure.

We pray in our morning tefillah for the State of Israel, “Shield the people of Israel with Your love, spread over it the shelter of Your peace. Guide its leaders and advisors with Your Light and Your truth. Help them with Your good counsel. Strengthen the hands of those who defend our holy land. Crown their efforts with triumph. Bless the land with peace. Amen.”

Thursday night the center of Sharon held a unity gathering of close to 100 people who were showing support for our Israeli brethren. A local Chabad rabbi was offering the mitzvah of putting on tefillin. One young man responded, “What we need are F-15s and F-16s!” The rabbi answered him, “The tefillin are the fuel for the F-15s and F-16s”. We need strength from our military, and we pray for it from Hashem.

As these life-threatening circumstances have brought Jews together so does Shavuot. We will be uniting as one nation, with one heart to receive the Torah for the 3,333rd consecutive year. Our shared heritage, legacy, and destiny unite us in ways that are a “treasure.”

In our parasha, Hashem commands Moshe to take a census for He is counting His “treasured” diamonds, us. Commenting on Bamidbar 1:1 Rashi says that “the acts of counting are gestures of love on G-d’s part.”

Each one of us is an individual who matters to Hashem. Mishna Sanhedrin 4:4 states that each one of us was created in the image of G-d,

B’tselem Elokim. Maimonides wrote in Mishneh Torah, Hilchot Teshuvah 3:4, that each one of us should see ourselves as if our next act could change the fate of the world. G-d gave us talents and abilities, challenged by unique realities, to make these choices.

To the best of our abilities, we follow directions, see long-term benefits, follow Hashem’s ways, develop patience, have faith in times of trouble, and stay focused on a purpose. We harnessed these skills in the barren wasteland where we received the Torah. We carved out our independence, self-reliance, sense of individual and group responsibilities of caring for Hashem’s presence and each other. We stayed focused on a purpose to get to our Homeland.

Nedarim 55b states, "Torah was given in the desert to teach that we must consider ourselves open like the midbar in order to learn Torah."

We are individuals and we are a community. We need both perspectives to live a full life in the "desert" of our own blessed and challenged lives.

May our heads be lifted, "se'u et rosh", Bamidbar 1:2, to feel we "count" as Jews, the kind Hashem can be proud of. The choices we make, the way we follow Hashem's guidance and the way we care for each other perhaps will deem us worthy of being the diamonds, the "treasures" found under the desert sand.

A prayerful Shabbos of hope for shalom.