



# Congregation Etz Chaim

Rabbi Yonatan Gorin

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

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

Synagogue  
Member



## Parshas Va'era

Shevat 3, 5781

January 16, 2021

### Friday Night

Candle Lighting 4:20PM

### Shabbos Day

Latest Shema 9:32AM

Latest Shacharis 10:19AM

Sunset 4:39PM

Shabbos Ends 5:25PM

### Erev Shabbos Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>

Candle Lighting 4:28PM

## Davening Times

~ 1/15 - 1/17 ~

**\*\*Before attending, please review our COVID-19 policy in its entirety and pre-register. The signup can be found on the shul website.\*\***

### Shabbos

Friday Mincha 4:20PM

Shacharis 8:30AM

Mincha 4:10PM

Maariv 5:25PM

### Sunday

Shacharis 8:00AM

Mincha/Maariv 4:25PM

## Torah Learning

### Women's Shmiras HaLashon

Daily 9:05AM

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

Password: 9uvcAF

### Rabbi Hartman's Class

(Topic: Ecology)

Sunday 9:30AM

Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170smain

### Rabbi Gorin's Class

Tuesday 8:00PM

Zoom ID: 508 201 1855

Password: 665202

## ~ Announcements ~

### DRASHA SPONSORSHIP

This week's drasha is sponsored by the **Chernins** and the **Picards**. The **Chernins**, in honor of all the people with winter birthdays. The **Picard** family would like to thank the community for the outpouring of support and meals while we were recovering.

### COMMUNITY MINCHA/MAARIV

Mincha/Maariv Monday through Thursday is at Young Israel of Sharon at 4:20 p. m. Everyone who attends MUST register ahead of time at <https://www.yisharon.org/form/minyanim>.

### SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our semi-annual congregation meeting for members is Sunday, January 17th at 11:00 a.m. to update congregation on finances and other matters. RSVP to [jbmonat@aol.com](mailto:jbmonat@aol.com) to get the Zoom link. Please contact Michael Ferber if you have questions about your membership status, [Mi64944876@aol.com](mailto:Mi64944876@aol.com).

### **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.

Zoom link for Shmiras HaLashon:

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

Password: 9uvcAF

### **RABBI HARTMAN'S CLASS**

Rabbi Hartman's class will meet this Sunday at 9:30. Topic: Ecology.

Please use the following link to sign in:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9039171656?pwd=ZW5vbHhVWXVSMGJZRGZJYmNwL3JpQT09>

### **RABBI GORIN'S CLASS**

Rabbi Gorin's class will be Tuesday, January 19 at 8:00PM over Zoom - Meeting ID: 508 201 1855 | Passcode: 665202. Topic: Candles, Kiddush, Shabbos Meal – Part 6.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Our next OPEN planning meeting is Wednesday, January 20, at 7:30 p.m. Please come, virtually, to share ideas, and hear ours. You are welcome! Please e-mail Nina Rogoff for the link: [ninarogoff@gmail.com](mailto:ninarogoff@gmail.com).

### **BOARD MEETING**

Our next Board meeting is Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.

### **BOOK CLUB**

Congregation Etz Chaim is starting a **Book Club** and calling all interested readers!

The book selected for February is People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks, and we will discuss it virtually on Monday, Feb. 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The book is an historical fiction about a rare manuscript, the Sarajevo Haggadah, with its fate suspensefully keeping the reader enthralled as it is lost and saved from the 1500s up to now.

Copies are available in the library. If you prefer to buy the book please consider purchasing it using AmazonSmile and selecting Congregation Etz Chaim as your charitable recipient. A link to AmazonSmile is on our website, [etzchaimsharon.com](http://etzchaimsharon.com)

Interested readers please contact Merilee Maeir at [melmaeir@gmail.com](mailto:melmaeir@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **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](mailto: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; Eli Picards's mother, Faiga Zlata bas Esther Leah; Yona Shoshana bas Rivka Petal; Shira Gabriela bas Sussi; Yisroel Eliezer Nechama ben Shira Gabriela; Naftali Hertz ben Shira Gabriela and for all those who need our prayers for a complete and speedy recovery.

**PARASHA NOTE**

Va'eira, "I appeared..."

G-d is telling Moshe, "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob establishing my Covenant to give them the Land of Israel. I have heard the groan of the Children of Israel and I have remembered my Covenant." Shemot 6:3-5.

G-d instructs Moshe to tell the Hebrew slaves that, "I will take them out of slavery, redeem them with an outstretched hand, take them to Me for a people and I will be G-d to them. They shall know that Hashem is Hashem. I shall bring them to the land that I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I shall give it to them as a heritage. I am Hashem." 6:6-8.

The first 7 plagues take place in this parasha. They were opportunities for the Jews and Egyptians to see G-d's might and will.

The first two plagues were mimicked by the Egyptian sorcerers. G-d's goal was to smite the Egyptian's revered god, the Nile River, by flooding its waters with blood and frogs. The third plague, kinim, was lice. Because each louse was smaller than a grain of barley, the necromancers could not duplicate this "maka"/plague. The Egyptian magicians then recognized that lice came from G-d.

Despite these miraculous events there were some people who continued to doubt the belief in a non-corporeal god, still praying to the Nile, the sun, pharaoh, etc.

The fourth plague, Arov, was a multitude of wild beasts invading the Egyptian cities. Ibn Ezra thought Hebrews went through the first 3 plagues with the Egyptians being affected to a lesser degree. From the fourth "maka"/plague on the Jews of Goshen were separated and did not experience the horrors of the remaining plagues.

The 7<sup>th</sup> plague was heavy, devastating hail composed of fire and ice. Exodus 9:18-22, "This time tomorrow I will rain down a very heavy hail such as has not been in Egypt from the day it was founded until now. Order your livestock and everything you have in the open to be brought under shelter. Every man and beast that is found outside shall perish when the hail comes down upon them."

There were some Egyptians who feared G-d's word and brought their slaves and livestock indoors to safety. But others paid no regard and left their possessions out in the open.

Throughout history there have been people who have remained negligent or apathetic to G-d's wonderful actions and creations. In thinking everything is normal and routine when something wonderful or upsetting happens they attribute it to luck or to an accident.

In staying committed to Judaism's morals, ethics, our Torah and Hashem we can pay attention to G-d's words with some respectful awe/fear. We can put our hearts into His service to live our lives as we were purposed for. We can love our fellow man, v'ahavta lareicha kamocha", and care enough to help bring him, his family and possessions inside our hearts and homes when danger is about to strike.

Why did miracles happen in Egypt? Because the Jews believed they would. Those who didn't believe in miracles saw only plagues.

**A Shabbos of seeing "G-d's hand" in our wonders then and now!**