

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
Member at Large: Robert Dell
Member at Large: Michael Ferber
Member at Large: Rabbi Chuni Rappoport

Synagogue
Member



Erev Shabbos Vayigash

4th of Tevet

Lik ner 4:07 PM

FOLLOWED BY **SHABBOS MINCHA SERVICES**

Shabbos Day

Shacharis 9:00 AM

Latest Shema 9:31 AM

Latest Tefilla 10:17 AM

Earliest Mincha 12:19 PM

Mincha 4:26 PM

Ma'ariv 5:13/5:38 PM

Shabbos Day at YI

Early Mincha 12:13 PM

Mincha 4:07 PM

Ma'ariv 5:13 PM

Shabbos Day at Chabad

Earliest Mincha 12:14 PM

Shabbos ends 5:13 PM

Ma'ariv 5:25 PM

Sunday Etz Chaim

Shacharis 8:00 AM

Mincha 4:21 PM

Weekday Mincha/Ma'ariv

Young Israel 4:07 PM

Late Maariv Tu & Th 9:00 PM

Chabad

Mincha 4:15 PM

Maariv 5:01 PM

TORAH LEARNING

Rabbi Hartman's class is **not meeting** this Sunday.

(The link Zoom ID: 903 917 1656

Password: 170 smain)

SHAMIRAS HALASHON is M & Th. Please contact
Janis Monat: jbmonat@aol.com for the link.

DAF YOMI WEEKDAY ZOOM SCHEDULE

Via Zoom: Mon - Th 7:00 pm and Tu & Th 7:30 am

Meeting ID: 822 979 966

Password: 727190

DAF YOMI LIVE SCHEDULE:

Shabbos mornings at shul, 8:00 a.m., one hour
before shacharis;

Sunday mornings at shul, 7:00 a.m., one hour
before shacharis.

Contact Melvyn Huff

(781) 784-6608) or

melvynhuff@comcast.net for more information.

Etz Chaim has weekday morning minyans:
Monday through Friday at 6:45 a.m.

At the end, enjoy a cup of Keurig coffee, a
cookie, and/or a cup of tea.

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MAZAL TOV

Mazal Tov to Rabbi and Mrs. Yehuda Miller on the birth of a baby boy on Tuesday. Bris will be next Tuesday in Lakewood b'Ezras Hashem. Mazal tov to the grandparents, Rabbi Nisson Dov and Mrs. Tamar Miller!

RABBI REISMAN

This motsei shabbos **the illustrious Rabbi Yisrael Reisman** will be offering his weekly, thought-provoking Navi classes on Yirmiyahu at 7:30 p.m. at Etz Chaim. All are welcome!

BOARD MEETING

Etz Chaim's monthly **board meeting is this Wednesday, January 8 at 5:00 p.m.** via Zoom. Please contact Janis Monat jbmonat@aol.com for the link.

ETZ CHAIM BOOK CLUB


The Promise of a Pencil is a riveting story of how a young man turned \$25.00 into more than 200 schools around the world and the guiding steps anyone can take to lead a successful and significant life.

Adam Braun began working summers at hedge funds when he was just sixteen years old, sprinting down the path to a successful Wall Street career. But while traveling he met a young boy begging on the streets of India, who after being asked what he wanted most in the world, simply answered, "A pencil." This small request led to a staggering series of events that took Braun backpacking through dozens of countries before eventually leaving one of the world's most prestigious jobs to found Pencils of Promise, the organization he started with just \$25.00 that has since built more than 200 schools around the world.

The Promise of a Pencil chronicles Braun's journey to find his calling, as each chapter explains one clear step that every person can take to turn their biggest ambitions into reality, even if one starts with as little as \$25. His story takes readers behind the scenes with business moguls and village chiefs, world-famous celebrities and hometown heroes. Driven by compelling stories and shareable insights, this is a vivid and inspiring book that will give you the tools to make your own life a story worth telling. **The Sharon Public Library has copies available.** We plan to meet on Monday, January 27, 2025, on Zoom.

PRAYERS FOR ISRAEL

May the new ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah be successful for our brethren's sake, allowing the 60,000 Israeli residents to return to their homes in northern Israel in safety.

May our learning, davening, and acts of kindness be a *zechus* for the safety of *acheinu B'nei Yisrael* in Eretz Yisrael and help to protect all those engaged in the war against terror. **We pray for a return of the rest of the hostages**, the healing of the injured IDF soldiers and Israeli citizens maimed on 10/7/23 and since. May there be safety with a peaceful Israel, and a full victory over our enemies and antisemitism. **Am Yisrael Chai** 

REFUAH SHELAIMA

We continue to pray for the health of a friend's son, Ahron Yitzchak ben Berina; Heidi Goldblatt, Rachel Chana bas Menucha; Robert Dell, Chana Reuven ben Leah; George Monat's sister-in-law, Shayna Baila bas Rachel; a friend, Tzipporah Zlata bas Bluma Yehudis; a 2-year-old, Miriam Aidel bas Sara Malka, who is a niece of Yoni's chavrusa; and the son of Leisha Martin, Yosef Eliyahu ben Ruth, <https://gofund.me/cacf3b87>. May their healing be complete soon!

Thoughts on parasha Vayigash

By Janis Monat

By now we have celebrated 8 nights of Chanukah and two days of Rosh Chodesh. We have left Kislev and we are in the month of Tevet. My father's yartzeit is the 10th of Tevet. His soul and the love of his life, my mother, who became niftarah on the 15th Kislev, are together again after an almost 13 year separation.

In our parasha, Vayigash, "and he approached", we have other long-awaited and wonderful reunions. Yosef is intimately and assertively "approached" by his brother, Yehuda, who is not aware to whom he is speaking, ch. 44:18. Yosef eventually reveals himself to his brothers, reunites with his youngest brother, Benjamin, in particular, and at long last, their father, Yaakov, after a 22 year separation. Nachmanides summarizes, "It is well known whose tears are more present, the aged parent who finds his long-lost son alive having despaired and mourned for him, or the young son who rules."

My son, Yoni, points out that a major theme of this week's parasha is, "I am Joseph", the revelation of who Yosef was to his brothers. Sometimes honesty takes courage but once revealed a light shaft opens, a lightness of the heart can be felt, and a sincere look in the eye may cement a relationship. That is how Yosef, his brothers, and their father, Yaakov, felt after their "approaches".

A dear family friend, a Holocaust survivor, just passed away Dec. 31. 2024. Incredibly his views on life contained the capacity to live without anger. He always had a "joie de vivre", a joy of life about him, so appreciative was he that he had had another chance at life. In fact, he considered his birthday as the day he was liberated. His advice on life in the Oral History interview was, "You cannot go back to the past. G-d gave us eyes to look ahead. Love, live, and let live.

On a lighter note, my husband and I experienced a revealing moment. For years I had wondered why there hadn't been mutual eye contact under the chuppah. When I finally brought up the subject he explained, "Had I looked at you I would have cried." Crying is a type of renewal through water, a cleansing. With this understanding, now when our eyes meet, they say somethings words are not needed for.

January 3, we celebrate our 37th wedding anniversary, a warm day in a cold winter.

May we continue to have honest moments when we "approach" those whom we love with courage and receive acceptance and feel renewed. You never know what Hashem has in store for our relationships and how much better, with respectful honesty, they can get.

A loving, live and let live shabbos!