

# **NHBZ Shabbos Bulletin**

November 20, 2010

13 Kislev 5771

בס"ד

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Torah Portion Vayishlach:Bereshis 32:4 - 36:30Artscroll Chumash pages 170 - 195Haftorah:Obadiah 1:1 - 1:21Artscroll Chumash pages 1141 - 1142

# <u>Today</u>

- Shachris & Musaf (9:00 am) Thank you for leading services:
  - Pesukei D'Zimra: Howard Sandler
- Haftorah: Mayer Taller
- Shacharis: Ron Makovsky
- Sermon: Rabbi Ze'ev SmasonMusaf: Menachem Szus
- Leyning: Michael Shapiro
- Learners Service (10:00 am) Led by Rabbi Swidler or Jonathan Stern in the Chapel
- Jr. Congregations (10:30 am) Girls Jr. Congregation and younger children meet in the Chapel with Dodi Smason; Boys Jr. Congregation will meet in the Auditorium with Avrumi Smason
- Kiddush (following Musaf) Everyone is invited to Kiddush in the Joe Rothman Auditorium; Chocolate Cookie Cake is sponsored by Leo Bressler, Linda & Menachem Szus in honor of Kenny Bressler's birthday
- **Shabbos Study Group** (3:40 pm) Studies in Tanach, lead by Menachem Szus; everyone at any level of learning is welcome
- Boys' Mishna Study Group (3:40 pm) With Rabbi Smason, for boys ages 10-17
- Mincha / Shalosh Seudos / Maariv (4:10 pm) Shalosh Seudos is sponsored in honor of the 90th birthday of Miriam Kapelusz -- to mother, bubbe and grand bubbe with love from Ruth & Gary Levison, Leah, Scott and Dylan Mittelman, and Jeremy & Wendy Levison
- Shabbos concludes (5:29 pm)

# <u>Tonight</u>

• **'Movies After Dark'** (tonight, Motzei Shabbos, 7:30 pm) - We will screen the movie "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio" in the private 30-seat theater at the Mansions on the Plaza, 8300 Delmar. Rabbi Smason will lead a discussion following the film; light refreshments will be available. Thanks to Jane Lyss for organizing this monthly event. Feel free to invite your friends.

# This Week

<ul> <li>Davening Times</li> </ul>	Sunday Nov 21	Monday Nov 22	Tuesday Nov 23	Wednesday Nov 24			Shabbos Nov 27
Shachris	8:00 am	7:00 am	7:00 am	7:00 am	8:00 am 🌣	7:00 am	9:00 am
Mincha/Maariv	4:20 pm	4:20 pm	-	-	4:20 pm \$	4:20 pm	4:05 pm
Maariv Only	-	-	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	-	-	-

☆Thanksgiving

- **Sunday Learning** (tomorrow, Sunday Nov 21, following Shachris) Rabbi Chanan Swidler of Aish HaTorah leads Mishna study for men following Sunday morning services; davening at 8:00 a.m.
- **RAP with the RABBI Teen Group** (tomorrow, Sunday Nov 21, 9:15 am) with Rabbi Smason for young men and women in the Rabbi's office

- **Circus Kids** (tomorrow, Sunday, Nov 21, 1:30 pm) See shul member Max Pepose perform in this movie at the Hi-Point Theater as part of the St. Louis Film Festival; the movie depicts the St. Louis Arch's trip to Israel to perform with the Galilee Circus comprised of Arab and Jewish kids; buy tickets at the box office, or at www.circusharmony.com
- **NHBZ's 6th ANNUAL KOSHER CHILI COOKOFF** (tomorrow, Sunday Nov 21, 5:30 pm) -Jewish Community Center Creve Coeur Staenberg Family Complex; this is a "can't miss event"; come support the shul; admission is \$6, and allows you to taste all contestants' chilis, and vote for your favorites; \$500 in prizes for winners! Live entertainment, too!
- **Rabbi Smason's Lunch & Learn** (Wednesday, Nov 24, 12:15 pm) Insights for daily living from the weekly Torah portion; in the Auditorium
- **Thanksgiving Brunch & Learn** (Thursday, Nov 25, following Shachris) Join us for a delicious brunch followed by "Better a Tail to Lions, or Head to Foxes?" presented by Rabbi Smason
- **Anniversary Journal** We are past the published due date for putting your ad in our anniversary journal, but we still have some time before sending the material to the printer. Please help us make our journal memorable for our honorees, **JoAnn Raskas and Ron Rosen**, and for **Alex & Jack Lys**s, the recipients of the Youth Service Award. Send your ad in now!
- 105th Anniversary Dinner Reservations (Sunday, Dec 12) Send them in, now!

## **Coming Events**

- Pizza Night Sunday, Nov 28, 5:00 pm 7:00 pm
- Irvin Alper Social Club Sunday, Nov 28, 5:00 pm 9:00 pm
- Morris Lenga Yiddish Club Thursday, Dec 2 7:00 pm
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** (Friday Night, Dec 3) Services will be led by the 'Eckhardt Ensemble of Milwaukee': Baritone, **Joel Eckhardt**, and sons; Joel has sung in musical theatre, opera, and television including performances with Leonard Bernstein and the New Israeli Opera; he also recorded the role of Gaston in Disney's Hebrew language version of "Beauty and the Beast."
- **Shabbos Lunch and Learn** (Dec 4) In honor of December birthdays and wedding anniversaries; davening will be lead by the 'Eckhardt Ensemble of Milwaukee'; speakers will be Rabbi Chaim Possick of Torah MiTzion Kollel and visiting teens from Yokneam, Israel
- NHBZ Women's Home Study Group (Tuesday, Dec 7. 2:30 pm) "Six Constant Mitzvos" presented by Rabbi Shaya Mintz of the St. Louis Kollel at the home of Jackie Berkin; all women are welcome
- **105th Anniversary Dinner** (Sunday, December 12) Honoring JoAnn Raskas and Ron Rosen, benefactors and inspiration for the NHBZ Lion's Den Pizza Night that has delighted the entire St. Louis Jewish community; also honoring **Alex and Jack Lyss** with the first NHBZ Youth Service Award for their exemplary service to the shul; it is with great pleasure that we give well-deserved kovod (honor) to these wonderful people; we have chosen to create an elegant, elaborate evening at our current location. 8630 Olive Boulevard, to bid a fond farewell in a grand manner to the "old" as we prepare to move into our new home in 2011

#### **Meetings**

- Executive Committee & Capital Campaign Monday, November 29; meeting at 7:30 pm
- Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, December 14. Maariv at 6:30 pm; meeting at 7:00 pm

### **Reminders**

- Toys for Chanukah Bring new gifts for needy children to the office by December 1
- Freshly Baked Pareve Challa & Sweets for Shabbos Norma Yabeta will take your orders; call 314-398-1044 or email lemuriana999@hotmail.com by Noon on Wednesdays
- Free Money for NHBZ !! Use Schnuck's card and buy Gift Cards
- *Turn in Cell Phones, Chargers and Ink Jet Cartridges* Planet Green Recycling will dispose of these safely, and pay us, too!

# Beyond Twelve Gates by Rabbi Ze'ev Smason

'Beyond Twelve Gates' refers to a beautiful concept taught by the great mystic *Rabbi Isaac Luria* (1534-1572), also known as '*The Ari*'. There exist twelve gates of prayers in Heaven — one for each tribe of Israel. Additionally, there exists a Heavenly thirteenth gate. Through this gate the prayers of all Jews regardless of tribe, Jewish education or level of observance are allowed to enter and are heard by G-d.

Welcome to Beyond Twelve Gates. Giving tzedaka (charity) can be a lifesaver. Famed philanthropist Nathan Straus - after whom



the Israeli city Netanya is named - once visited Jerusalem to participate in the dedication of a soup kitchen for needy Jews whose construction he had helped to finance. Nathan was accompanied by his brother who had refused to contribute to this project. As they left the soup kitchen, Nathan slipped on the stairs and severely sprained his ankle. His brother,

who had only disdain for the hundreds of poor Jews who depended on the kitchen, visited him in the hospital and made a cynical remark about the "reward" Nathan had received from Heaven for his "misguided charity." Anxious to take care of some business affairs in Europe, the brother departed before Nathan had recuperated. The ship he traveled on - **the Titanic** - sank and he lost his life. Only then did it become clear that Nathan's **tzedaka** had saved his life.

#### Parshas Vayishlach Genesis 32:4 — 36:43

Jacob and family return from the house of Laban to the land of Israel, only to find Esau heading toward them with 400 men, ready for battle. After preparing his family for war and praying to G-d for help, Jacob attempts to appease his brother by sending him a gift of many animals. After his family crosses the river to await their meeting with Esau, Jacob is left alone for an all-night 'confrontation' with an angel disguised as a man. Although Jacob is victorious, he is left limping from a hip-dislocation. Rejoining his family, Jacob encounters Esau who accepts him with an apparent new-found brotherly love. Jacob and Esau part ways, in peace. Another crisis arises when Jacob's daughter Dinah is abducted and raped by Shechem, the prince of a town with the same name. Two of Jacob's sons, outraged at the humiliation caused to their sister, trick the town's residents into circumcising themselves (ouch!) on the condition that they would then be allowed to intermarry with Jacob's family. Simeon and Levi (the two brothers) then decimate the entire city and save Dinah. Later in the portion, G-d blesses Jacob and gives him the additional name, Israel. Soon after, Rachel dies while giving birth to Benjamin, Jacob's twelfth son. Finally, Jacob returns home and is reunited with his father Isaac. The Torah portion concludes with a lengthy genealogy of Esau's family.

#### Rabbinic Ruminations



The world record for the loudest scream, 129 decibels, is held by mother-of-two Jill Drake of England. For comparison's sake, the rock band Deep Purple was recognized by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the "loudest pop group" when in a concert their sound reached 117 decibels. Three of their audience members were rendered unconscious. Jill Drake's yell was nine decibels more than a train horn, as loud as a pneumatic drill, and only 10 decibels lower than a jumbo jet taking off. In the animal world, the howler monkey is the loudest land

animal, and can be heard over three miles away even through dense rain forest. The call of the blue whale reaches levels up to 188 decibels and can be heard for hundreds of miles underwater. The tiger pistol shrimp, however, can emit a sound up to 200 decibels which it uses to stun its prey. Thankfully, it lives deep under water. All that noise brings to mind the teaching of Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel, who said, "All my days I grew up among the Sages and I found nothing better for oneself than silence." (Ethics of the Fathers) Why is this the case? Noise lets us ignore our most precious possession; our true and profound selves. When we're alone in the car, why do we immediately reach for the radio? We're afraid of silence. To consider the purpose of our lives and meaning of our existence requires thoughtful contemplation. We allow ourselves to be busy and distracted from the most important things in life; consideration of our goals, improvement of our character, and our relationship with the Almighty. The next time you're alone in the car, resist the urge to put on the radio. Instead, take advantage of the quiet.

Quote of the Week ~ Yoda (The Empire Strikes Back) Do, or do not. There is no 'try!'

#### Joke of the Week





All we ever tell are Jewish jokes. So, here are some gentile jokes. A gentile goes into a clothing store and says, "This is a very fine jacket. How much is it?" The salesman says, "It's \$500." The gentile says, "OK, I'll take it. Two gentiles meet on the street. The first one says, "You own your own business, don't you? How's it going?" The other gentile says, "Just great! Thanks for asking!" A man calls his mother and says, "Mother, I know you're expecting me for dinner this evening, but something important has come up and I can't make it." His mother says, "OK."

OY VEY!

Thanks for reading 'Beyond Twelve Gates'. Comments, questions, requests to be added to our email list, or better jokes, can be sent to Rabbi Smason at Pepshort613@gmail.com. Care to know more about Nusach Hari B'nai Zion Congregation? Check us out at www.nhbz.org If you enjoyed Beyond Twelve Gates, please share with a friend. Thanks to Alan Haber for his assistance in distributing BTG.

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