

NHBZ Shabbos Bulletin

Dec. 29, 2012

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

16 Teves, 5773

Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America

Torah Portion - Vayechi:
Haftorah:

Genesis 47:28 – 50:26
1 Kings 2:1-12

Stone Chumash pages 268-289
Stone Chumash pages 1145-1146

Erev Shabbos - Friday, December 28

- **Mincha & Maariv** (4:25 pm)
- **Candle Lighting** (4:30 pm)

Shabbos - Saturday, December 29

- **Shachris & Musaf** (9:00 am) - Thank you for leading services:
 - Pesukei D'Zimra: **Howard Sandler**
 - Shacharis: **Menachem Szus**
 - Leyning: **Max Gornish**
 - Haftorah: **Alan Haber**
 - Sermon: **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason**
 - Musaf: **Menachem Szus**
- **Kiddush** (following Musaf)
- **Mincha / Shalosh Seudos / Ma'ariv** (4:10 pm)
- **Shabbos Concludes** (5:33 pm)



This Week

| <i>At a Glance</i> | Shabbos Dec. 29 | Sun. Dec. 30 | Mon. Dec. 31 | Tues. Jan. 1 | Wed. Jan. 2 | Thur. Jan. 3 | Fri. Jan. 4 | Shabbos Jan. 5 |
|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Shachris | 9:00 am | 8:00 am | 7:00 am | 8:00 am | 7:00 am | 7:00 am | 7:00 am | 9:00 am |
| Mincha/Maariv | 4:10 pm | 4:30 pm | 4:30 pm | 4:30 p.m. | - | - | 4:30 pm | 4:20 pm |
| Maariv Only | - | - | - | - | 6:45 pm | 6:45 pm | - | - |
| <i>Events – see times in Event Planner Box below</i> | Child Care; Youth Prog; Learner's Service; Study Group | Pizza Buffet Night!!! | | Buy Cash Cards | Lunch 'n' Learn | Shechita Class | Erev Shabbos; | Installation Shabbos! |

Coming Events (see Event Planner Box on next page for *all* events)

- **DINE-IN PIZZA BUFFET** – This Sunday, December 30, 2012; 5:00-7:00 p.m. With Professional Pizza Chef, John Nall, 2010 & 2011 Pizza Champion, Taste of St. Louis Competition!
- **Installation Shabbos** (Shabbos, January 5, 2013)
- **Irvin Alper Social Club** (Sunday, January 6, 2013) New, earlier time: 3:00 pm to play cards, watch a movie, and shmoozing; Dinner at 5:00 pm.
- **Shabbos, January 12th** ~ Kiddush & Lunch sponsored in honor of **Rachael Pevnick's 80th Birthday** by her children and grandchildren, Larry & Robin Pevnick, Brandon and Margo; by Andrea & Stan Goldenberg and Barry, Adam & Patricia Goldenberg and their children, Gibson & Langston (Rachael & Ted's great grandson's); and by Debbie & Brian Sher, Andrew and Joel. Mazel Tov to Rachael!!!

Nusach Hari B'nai Zion
650 N. Price Road
Saint Louis, MO 63132

Ze'ev Smason, Rabbi
Aaron Borow, Rabbi Emeritus
Janet Haber, President
Dr. Ethan Schuman, Chazan

Office Phone 314-991-2100
Chapel Phone: 314-991-2100
Webpage: www.nhbz.org

NHBZ Event Planner (Check 'Coming Events' for time, date or location changes.)
Call the office at 314-991-2100, ext. 2, to confirm the date and time of any event.

Weekly at NHBZ

Shabbos

- **Child Care** (10:00 am – Noon) kids 3 & under in the Children's Room
- **Youth Programming** (10:15 am – 11:00 am) children 4-8, in the Youth Lounge.
- **Learners Service** (10:15 am) led by Rabbi Ze'ev Smason in the Chapel
- **Shabbos Tanach (Bible) Study Group** (30 minutes before Mincha)

Sunday

- **Mishna Learning** (after Shachris) with Rabbi Chanan Swidler of Aish
- **RAP with the RABBI Teen Group** (10:15 am) with Rabbi Smason @ Starbucks Olive & Price
- **Mystical Moments with Rabbi Max Weiman** (between Mincha & Maariv.)
- **Tanya** (8:00 pm) with Rabbi Shaya Mintz of the St. Louis Kollel

Wednesday

- **Rabbi Smason's Lunch & Learn** (12:15 pm – 1:00 pm) now studying Pirkei Avos

Thursday

- **Schechita** (5:30 pm – 6:30 pm) with Rabbi Chaim Loike of the OU Kashruth Division

Monthly at NHBZ

- **Irvin Alper Social Club** (First Sunday)
- **Women's Home Study Group** (First Tuesday, 2:30 pm) with Rabbi Shaya Mintz, of the St. Louis Kollel at home of Jackie Berkin
- **Morris Lengua Yiddish Club** (First Thursday, 7:30 pm)
- **Dine-In Pizza Night** (Last Sunday 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm)
- **Carry-Out Pizza Night** (Wednesday mid-month; will resume ASAP!)
- **Sisterhood** (Third Tuesday)
- **Women's Guide to Time** (As scheduled) with Rebbitzin Chani Smason

NHBZ Signature Events

- **Synaplex Shabbos**
- **Shabbos Lunch & Learn**
- **I-Chat**

Coming Events ~ continued

- **Shabbos, January 12th** ~ More sponsors ~ Sam & Shirley Bluestein will sponsor a cake in honor of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary, and The Pepose Family will be the "POP-Stars" sponsoring the soda in honor of Jay's Birthday and Rachael Pevnick's birthday.

Meetings

- **Board of Directors** (Tuesday, January 8, 2013) Minyan at 6:45 p.m.; Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- **Sisterhood Luncheon** (Tuesday, January 15, at 12:00 noon!) A **FREE** Picnic-Themed Luncheon at the Crown Center for Senior Living, 8350 Delcrest. Jon Rubin will prepare the lunch served from their kosher kitchen: Oven Fried Chicken, Cole Slaw, Corn Pudding, Wheat Roll, and Apple Cobbler!!! Music! Games! Prizes! Raffle! To make your reservations, please call Rachael Pevnick, 314-395-6017.
- **Executive Committee** (Tuesday, January 29)

Reminders

- **Buy and Use Cash Cards** – call the office ASAP to order your cards and **earn free money** for NHBZ!
- **High Holiday Appeal** – please pay your pledge as soon as possible.
- **Schnucks E-Scrip Card** - Use your Schnucks Card *now*, and make it count!!!
- **Sponsorships** - If you would like to sponsor Kiddush, Soda, Shalosh Seudos, this Bulletin, or something unique in honor or in memory of someone, please call 314-991-2100, extension 2, to make arrangements.

- **Tributes** - Show your friends you care; a tribute is a donation in honor of a birth, a birthday, an anniversary, a healthy recovery, or in memory of a loved one, or for any reason to show you care; tributes will be listed in this bulletin monthly.
 - For a Shul tribute, **call Gloria Waxman** at 314-872-3296
 - For a Sisterhood tribute, call Phyllis Silverman at 314-434-2482
 - For Libby Needle Fund, call Sally Needle at 314-991-2575
- **Buy a Brick Online or by Phone** - Our website now accepts online donations for the Brick and Planting Campaign; go to <http://www.nhbz.org/dedications.asp> or call the office at 314-991-2100.
- **Synagogue Honors** - It is customary to make a donation to the synagogue for an Aliyah or other synagogue honors received.

News, Features and Simchas

- **Mazel Tov On Simchas December 29th to January 4th - Happy Birthday to Dena Perez, Avrami Smason, Eli Szus, Mickey Wasserman, Daniella Yasinev, and Dennis Yasinev. No Anniversaries this week.** Show your friends you care by sending a tribute. For Shul: Gloria Waxman 314-872-3296; Sisterhood: Phyllis Silverman 314-434-2482; For Libby Needle Fund: Sally Needle 314-991-2575; For Chesed Fund: Drop by the office for a Card Pack.
- **Rabbi Herschel (Heath) Berkin's Book!** Our very own Rabbi Heath Berkin has spoken with Targum, his publisher, to setup a link so that when anyone buys the sefer from the link, a portion of the sale will be donated to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion. Menachem Szus added the link, to the Targum site and Heath's book, to our website. Go to www.nhbz.org and you can access the link by clicking on the book. A big thanks to Heath, for his generous and thoughtful gesture . . . and a very big Mazel Tov and Yasher Koach on his great accomplishment!!!
- **Special Book "Our Father's Voice: A Holocaust Memoir"** is Felicia Graber's new book written with her brother, Dr. Leon Bialecki, from recorded interviews with their father; The Forward states: "In his acute observations and straightforward judgments, Mr. Bialecki spared no one, least of all himself. He was uniformly frank about Jew and gentile, rich and poor, pious and nonreligious, cultured and uneducated." Felicia will generously donate \$8.00 to NHBZ from the sale of each \$18.00 book. We only have four books left in the office. Please come to the office or place your orders by calling 314-991-2100, ext. 2
- **Melave Malka this Motzei Shabbos** (Dec. 29th; 8:15 p.m.) At the home of Dr. & Mrs. Jose Greenspon, 14249 Forest Crest Drive, Chesterfield, MO 63017. Featuring special guest speaker Rabbi Avrohom Stulberger, noted mechanech and Dean of Valley Torah High School. Also the raffle drawing will be held. For any questions, please call MTI at 314 594-0462.
- **DESPERATE NEED FOR BLOOD DONATIONS -- ST. LOUIS JEWISH COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE, ENDORSED BY THE JEWISH SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK:** at Young Israel, 8101 Delmar, Sunday, January 6th ~ 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. There is an extreme shortage . . . blood donors needed!!! To schedule an appointment, go to redcrossblood.org (use sponsor code: YIJS) OR call 1-800-RED-CROSS. **Walk-In Donors Welcome -- Appointments Take Priority!!!** Free Babysitting Available. For info or to volunteer, call Judy Hellman, (314) 862-8432 or e-mail jrhellman@sbcglobal.net. *Please Bring Non-Perishable Food Items for The Harvey Kornblum Jewish Food Pantry Drive.*

Beyond Twelve Gates – Parshas Vayechi
Rabbi Ze'ev Smason -- December 28, 2012

Welcome to Beyond Twelve Gates!

A New Hampshire man was the winner of a lottery jackpot even though the winning ticket wasn't the one he intended to buy. Scott Bennett went into a convenience store on Dec.19 and asked the clerk for one Tri-State Megabucks ticket and one Lucky for Life ticket. The clerk mistakenly sold him two Megabucks ticket -- the second of which was the winner of the \$2.1 million jackpot.

Cathy Bennett said she came home to find her husband at the computer checking the New Hampshire Lottery website. "We must have checked them about 15 times. We really truly didn't believe it." The Bennetts opted to take the lump sum payment of about \$1.3 million, and will use it to pay down debt, remodel the kitchen and fund their children's college education. Nicki Gee, the 24-year-old clerk who sold the ticket, said, "He (Bennett) came in yesterday to thank me and said I had made a very good mistake."

Can something that seems bad be something good in disguise? Absolutely. It is important to train oneself to look positively upon life's situations. Often what appears as 'bad' or 'negative' ends up being a blessing. What can we do to look at challenging situations in a positive light? A Hebrew expression, *gam zu l'tova*, means 'this too is for the best.' When things don't seem to be going your way, say *gam zu l'tova*. At times, hidden blessings and 'good mistakes' turn out to be the sweetest blessings of all.

Parshas Vayechi Genesis 47:28 -- 50:26

The final portion of the first book of the Torah describes Jacob's actions immediately preceding his death in Egypt. Jacob makes Joseph swear to bury him in the land of Israel, and then gives Joseph's two sons, Menashe and Ephraim, a special blessing. Notwithstanding Joseph's protest, Jacob insists on giving the younger Ephraim the right-hand position of primacy during the blessing (is this the origin of 'my right-hand man'?).

Jacob then proceeds to give each of his other sons their individual blessings in accordance with their own unique character traits and life purpose. Jacob passes away at the age of 147. He then is brought by his sons and accompanied by a great procession of Egyptian royalty to the land of Israel where he is buried in *M'aras HaMachpelah* (The Tomb of the Patriarchs). Upon returning to Egypt, Joseph's brothers fear that he will finally take revenge now that their father is dead. However, Joseph reassures them that he bears no hard feelings. The portion concludes with Joseph's death and the Jewish people's promise to carry his bones with them to Israel when they are finally redeemed.

Rabbinic Ruminations

Okay, so if you're reading these words, you survived the supposed "Mayan Apocalypse" which was set to take place last Friday, December 21. The odds of the Mayan Apocalypse being anything other than New Age pseudo-science bunk are about as high as the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series in your lifetime (Read: zero.)

That said, if you're in the market for a rational cause for crippling, existential fear about the threat of extinction of all human life, here are five doozies. 1) *Asteroid impact* -- The Torino Impact Hazard Scale measures the level of threat posed by known asteroids. A Torino 10 means: Call Bruce Willis; we need an asteroid driller ASAP. 2) *Near-earth supernova* -- A stellar explosion can radiate as much energy as our Sun is expected to emit over its entire life span. Cosmic sunglasses won't help. 3) *Gamma-ray burst (GRB)*-- If a GRB (a giant burst of deadly radiation that dwarfs supernovae) were to appear in the vicinity and direction of earth, the best case scenario is we all turn into green monsters of the Bruce Banner variety. 4) *Nuclear war* -- There are a lot of nukes lying around, and a lot of countries that could build a crude nuclear weapon should they want to — some of them less than reputable. (Looking at you, North Korea and Iran.) 5) *Robot uprising* --- A cybernetic revolt is considered a possibility by Cambridge University's Centre for the Study of Existential Risk. Is there a Terminator in the house?

There are many worries and concerns that can keep us up at night. What tool can help us overcome nighttime fear? Faith and trust in G-d, as King David said, "I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:9)

Quote of the Week

Sitting still and wishing,
Makes no person great.
The good Lord sends the fishing,
But you must dig the bait! -- Anonymous

Joke of the Week

Overheard: "Last year I replaced all the windows in my house with those expensive, double-pane, energy-efficient kind. Today, I got a call from the contractor who installed them. He complained that the work had been completed a year ago and I still hadn't paid for them.

Helloooo..... just because I'm blonde doesn't mean that I am automatically stupid. So, I told him just what his fast-talking sales guy told me last year.... that these windows would pay for themselves in a year. Hellooooo? It's been a year, so they're paid for, I told him. There was only silence at the other end of the line, so I finally hung up. He never called back. I bet he felt like an idiot."

-- Thanks to 'Mom', Mrs. Jackie Smason

NHBZ - 2013 DUES PLANS

| Category | Conditions on Jan 1 | 1 YR PLAN | | 2 YR PLAN | 5 YR PLAN | LIFETIME PLAN |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------|------------------|---|
| | | 5% discount Pay by 3/31/2013: | Pay after 3/31/2013 & before 12/31/2013 | Pay by 3/31/2013 | Pay by 3/31/2013 | Start payments before 12/31/12; finish payments within 60 weeks |
| Young Adult Individual Adult | age 24-29 | \$156.75 | \$165.00 | N/A* | N/A* | \$12,500.00 |
| Senior Adult | age 30-69 | \$679.25 | \$715.00 | \$1,365.00 | \$3,399.00 | \$12,500.00 |
| Single Parent Family | age 70+ | \$612.75 | \$645.00 | \$1,226.00 | \$3,065.00 | \$12,500.00 |
| Family | Kids thru age 23 | \$731.50 | \$770.00 | \$1,465.00 | \$3,675.00 | \$12,500.00 |
| Two Parent Family | Kids thru age 23 | \$1,448.75 | \$1,525.00 | \$2,899.00 | \$7,250.00 | \$25,000.00 |

Please review the above chart for a summary of all 2013 Dues Plans. We have three new plans this year that provide you with discounts and tax benefits, and also help the congregation.

1 YEAR PLAN

This is our Standard Dues plan that we have always offered. Features:

- If you pay before March 31, 2013, you will get a 5% discount
- Family plans include all children through age 23
- Reserved High Holiday seats for children are \$25 per child through age 23
- Reserved High Holiday seats for out-of-town guests of members are \$100 per guest
- Reserved High Holiday seats for members of the United States Military are free
- Reserved High Holiday seats for out-of-town college students attending school in St. Louis are free
- Monthly payment schedules are available. They must start by 1/15/2013. Please contact office.
- Any membership payments are non-refundable

Our Building Fund is a one-time donation of \$3000 per dues category – individual, senior or family – everybody pays the same. The Building Fund may be paid out over 5 years at \$600 per year. Young Adults may request a 10 year payment plan.

If it is difficult for you to pay the Standard Dues or the Building Fund donation, please contact our Executive Director Sandie Abrams to discuss alternative arrangements. Please call our office for details and further information, 314-991-2100, ext. 2.

LIFETIME PLAN

This is a new option for 2013. Features:

- The lifetime plan for families guarantees the parent(s) membership for life
- The lifetime plan for families guarantees membership for children through age 23
- The lifetime dues amount is guaranteed until December 31st, 2012; in subsequent years, the amount could increase
- The lifetime plan means that you will not be affected by future dues increases
- The names of lifetime members will be inscribed on a plaque in the synagogue
- To qualify for the lifetime plan, you must not owe any outstanding dues or assessments
- This lifetime membership fee is for membership dues only
- You must sign an agreement for this plan, and any donations you have made before signing the contract will not count toward the lifetime membership fee
- You must complete payments within 60 weeks of signing the contract, allowing you to plan charitable deductions over 3 income tax years
- If you do not pay in full within 60 weeks, your lifetime membership will end, and your payments to date will become a donation and will not be applied to membership dues
- If a married couple decides that only one of them wants to buy a lifetime membership, then the other one will continue paying dues with one of the other plans
- You can change from a single parent family membership to a 2-parent family membership by paying the then current single parent family dues for the second parent
- Any lifetime plan payments are non-refundable

2 YEAR and 5 YEAR PLANS

This is a new option for 2013 that gives you a discount for paying in advance. Features:

- This plan represents a discount for paying in advance
- You will not be charged any further membership dues over the term of the plan
- The total amount is to be paid by March 31, 2013
- If you do not pay the full amount for the plan of your choice by the allotted date, then your payments to date will be applied to your 1 YEAR membership plan.
- Any payments to the 2 year and 5 year plans are non-refundable.

* If Young Adult wishes they may participate in these plans at the Individual Adult rates

Special Membership Arrangement Election Form

I/We would like to participate in the Special Membership Arrangements as noted below:

The dues amounts are guaranteed until December 31st, 2012; in subsequent years, the amount could increase. Those who elect this option before December 31, 2012 have locked in the rate. Members who pay under any of these plans will not be affected by future dues increases for the applicable time period. The lifetime plan for families guarantees the parent(s) membership for life and for children through age 23.

These Special Membership Arrangements are for membership dues only, and does not include any other indebtedness to the synagogue, including but not limited to monies owed to the Building Fund, Capital Campaign or assessments. To qualify for these plans, the member must not owe any outstanding dues or assessments.

If the full payment for Lifetime Membership is not received within 60 weeks (or if the full payment for the other plans are not received by March 31, 2013) the participation in the Special Membership Arrangement will end, and any payments received to date will first be applied to a 1 YEAR membership plan, with any remainder treated as a voluntary donation and will not be applied to subsequent or additional membership dues or for any other indebtedness to the synagogue.

If a married couple decides that only one of them wants to buy a Special Arrangement membership, then the spouse will continue paying dues under one of the other plans. A member can change from a single parent family membership to a 2-parent family membership by paying the then current single parent family dues for the second parent. If a Young Adult wishes, they may participate in these plans at the Individual Adult rates.

I/We further agree to conform to the By-laws, regulations and motions passed by the Board of Directors that are now in existence or that may be amended by the Congregation from time to time.

The consideration for this Agreement includes the corresponding pledge by other congregants to the same responsibility, and the reliance by one congregant on the other to this pledge. I/We further understand that resignation from the Congregation does not relieve me/us of any financial responsibilities incurred prior to the effective date of such resignation. All plan payments are non-refundable.

So Agreed:

Congregant

Congregant