

NHBZ Shabbos Bulletin

January 21, 2012

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

26 Teves, 5771

Torah Portion Va'eira:
Haftorah Va'eira:

Exodus 6:2 – 9:35
Ezekiel 28:25 – 29:21

Stone Chumash pages 318 - 339
Stone Chumash pages 1149 - 1150

Thanks to **Ted Pevnick** for his generous donation sponsoring this Shabbos Bulletin in honor of his wife's birthday! Happy Birthday **Rachael!!!**

Erev Shabbos - Friday, January 20

- **Mincha & Maariv** (4:45 pm)
- **Candle Lighting** (4:51 pm)

Shabbos - Saturday, January 21

- **Shachris & Musaf** (9:00 am) - Thank you for leading services:
 - Pesukei D'Zimra: **Howard Sandler**
 - Shacharis: **Dr. Ethan Schuman**
 - Leyning: **Michael Shapiro**
 - Haftorah: **Ron Makovsky**
 - Sermon: **none**
 - Musaf: **Dr. Ethan Schuman**
- **Child Care** (10:00 am – Noon) – for children 3 years old and younger, in the Children's Room downstairs.
- **Youth Programming** (10:15 am – Noon) – for children ages 4-8, in the Youth Lounge on the lower level.
- **Learners Service** (10:15 am) – Led by **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason**, in the Chapel on the lower level.
- **Kiddush and Lunch & Learn** (following Musaf) - **MAZEL TOV** to our friends celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries in January! Our celebrants invite you to Kiddush & Lunch in the Social Hall; after Kiddush, please wash, be seated and silent until **Rabbi Smason** makes HaMotzi; after lunch **Rabbi Smason** will speak on the topic **"Why We Say 'L'chaim!' - and Other Colorful Jewish Customs."**
- **Thank Yous** – **1)** Thanks to **Fran Alper** for an *extremely* generous donation toward sponsoring today's luncheon in honor of her husband's "special" birthday, which is actually **TODAY!** **Lenny** is 75 years old today - and doesn't he look great?!?! Happy Birthday **Lenny!!!** **2)** Thanks to **Ruth Alper** for double-sponsoring soda today in honor of **Lenny Alper's** birthday and **Rachael Pevnick's** birthday. Happy Birthday to **Lenny & Rachael!!!** **3)** Thanks to **Marvin & Jackie Gitel** for their generous donation for lunch today IHO their 58th wedding anniversary.
- **Shabbos Study Group** (4:05 pm) - Studies in Tanach, led **by Menachem Szus**; everyone at any level of learning is welcome; now studying Yeshayahu (Isaiah).
- **Boys Mishna Study Group** (4:05 pm) - With **Rabbi Smason**, for boys ages 10-17.
- **Mincha/Shalosh Seudos/Ma'ariv** (4:35 pm)
- **Shabbos Concludes** (5:55 pm)



This Week

Davening Times	Shabbos Jan 21	Sun. Jan 22	Mon. Jan 23	Tues. Jan 24	Wed. Jan 25	Thur. Jan 26	Fri. Jan 27	Shabbos Jan 28
Shachris	9:00 am	8:00 am	7:00 am	7:00 am	6:45 am	7:00 am	7:00 am	9:00 am
Mincha/Maariv	4:35 pm	4:50 pm	4:50 pm	-	-	-	4:50 pm	4:40 pm
Ma'ariv Only	-	-	-	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	-	-
Events	Study; Shalosh Seudos	Learn and RAP	Buy Cash Cards		Rosh Chodesh; Lunch & Learn		Erev Shabbos	Study; Shalosh Seudos

- **Sunday Learning** (Sunday, January 22, following Shachris) - **Rabbi Chanan Swidler** of Aish HaTorah leads Mishna study for men following Sunday morning services; davening at 8:00 am.
- **RAP with the RABBI Teen Group** – (Sunday, January 22, 10:00 am) - with **Rabbi Smason**, for young men and women; at Starbucks at Olive & Price; with complimentary drinks to all participants!
- **Rabbi Smason's Lunch & Learn** (Wednesday, Jan 25, 12:15 pm, in the Teen Lounge on the lower level) - Now studying *Pirkei Avos (Ethics of the Fathers, in English)*, which deals with Jewish ethical and moral principles; please join us for an enjoyable and relevant presentation and discussion; **guest speaker this week is Trudy Sudin.**
- **Next Shabbos** (Sat. Jan. 28) – Kiddush will be sponsored by Jerry and Frances Cohen in honor of their daughters' birthdays; Shalosh Seudos will be sponsored by Sid & Phyllis Silverman in memory of Sid's parents and sister.
- **Carry-Out Pizza Night** (Wednesday, February 15) – if the Kitchen is ready !!!
- **Buy and Use Cash Cards** (Monday – Friday) – Next order dates are **Tuesday, January 31 and Wednesday, February 15**; buy 'em before these dates and earn free money for NHBZ.

Coming Events

- **Dine-In Pizza Night** (Last Sunday, January 29, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm)
- **Morris Lenga Yiddish Club** (First Thursday, February 2, 7:00 pm) - Join us for a spirited hour filled with Yiddish stories, songs and laughter; seasoned "mavens" as well as novices are welcome.
- **Synaplex plus February Birthday/Anniversary Lunch & Learn** (Saturday, Feb. 4) – Speakers so far are: **1) Rabbi Ze'ev Smason:** "Can We 'Prove' G-d's Existence?"; **2) Rabbi Eli Shapiro** (St. Louis Kollel): "Behind the mask of Purim - Why the costumes?"; **3)** to be announced.
- **TuB'Shevat Seder** (Motzei Shabbos, February 4) – Stay tuned for details. Children's program, too!
- **Irvin Alper Social Club** (First Sunday, February 5) – See picture ad for details.
- **NHBZ Women's Home Study Group** (First Tuesday, February 7, 2:30 pm) - at the home of **Jackie Berkin**; Topic is "The Six Constant Mitzvos," presented by **Rabbi Shaya Mintz**, of the St. Louis Kollel; all women are welcome; please join us!!!

Meetings

- **Expanded Chesed Committee** (Wednesday, January 25, 1:30 pm)
- **Executive Committee** (Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 pm, following minyan)
- **Board of Directors** (Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 pm, following minyan)



Reminders

- **Sponsorships** - If you would like to sponsor kiddush, Soda, Shalosh Seudos, this bulletin, or something special and unique in honor or in memory of someone, please call 314-991-2100, ext. 2, to make arrangements.
- **Synagogue Honors** - It is customary to make a donation to the synagogue for an Aliyah or other synagogue honors received.



Nusach Hari Bnai Zion – 2012 Officers and Board of Directors

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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 prayer in Heaven — one for each tribe of Israel. There also 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.

Parshas Va'eira

January 21, 2011

26 Teves, 5772

Welcome to Beyond Twelve Gates



Imagine, for a moment, the word *beautiful* spoken in Hebrew, Yiddish, French and a half-dozen other languages as well, mixed with the rustle of trickling waters and the light aroma of cedar. That, or something like it, was my experience on a recent family visit to Muir Woods National Monument, across the bay from San Francisco. Let me share with you a story as beautiful as my aesthetic experience. It is a story of how one man's humility led to the naming of the majestic Muir Woods.

The towering redwoods featured in Muir Woods were gifted in 1907 to the Federal Government by philanthropist and former U.S. Congressman William Kent. President Teddy Roosevelt sent a letter thanking Kent "most heartily", and offered that the new national monument should be named for Kent, as he was the land's donor. In his reply, Kent declined, saying, "So many millions of better people have died forgotten, that to stencil one's own name on a benefaction seems to carry with it an implication of mandate immortality, as being something purchasable."

"By George! you are right," the president responded. "It is enough to do the deed and not to desire, as you say, to 'stencil one's own name on the benefaction.'" William Kent instead requested the national monument be declared "Muir Woods National Monument" in honor of the famous writer and wilderness champion, John Muir.

Humility is not only a calming and healing attribute, but enables us to act more easily with respect toward others. The humble person doesn't feel the need to appear stronger, wiser, wealthier or better than others in any way. Instead of seeking honor, humility frees us to honor others. And paradoxically, in the end we become honored anyway, as Ethics of the Fathers (4:1) teaches: "Who is honored? He who honors others, as it is said: 'For those who honor Me will I honor, and those who scorn Me will be degraded' (I Samuel 2:30)."

Parshas Shemos – Exodus 6:2 – 9:35

G-d assures Moses that He will indeed redeem the Jewish people from slavery and bring them into the

land of Israel. After the Torah presents a detailed genealogy of the tribe of Levi (Moses' family), Moses and Aaron go before Pharaoh to request a three-day hiatus from work so that the Jewish people can worship G-d in the desert. Moses' staff is miraculously turned into a snake as a sign of their Divine mission. When the Egyptian sorcerers counter by transforming their staffs into snakes as well, Moses' staff swallows up theirs. Even so, Pharaoh adamantly refuses to free the Jewish people, and the series of ten gruesome plagues begins.



The first seven plagues are described in this week's Torah portion; blood, frogs, lice, a swarm of wild beasts, pestilence, boils and hail. Moses goes down to the river to speak to the Egyptian king - however, Pharaoh remains in denial ('in d'Nile - get it?') continuing to refuse to free the Jewish people as his heart is hardened. The portion comes to a close in the middle of these momentous events.

Rabbinic Ruminations



Are we alone in the universe? For thousands of years people have been guessing how many planets there might be among the stars, where we could, at least in principle, live. A recent study suggests the existence of at least 10 *billion* terrestrial planets in our galaxy, alone. According to the prestigious scientific journal *Nature*, approximately one out of every ten stars has a planet roughly the size of the Earth that orbits around its star. The study's results, gleaned from a planet search technique called microlensing, also indicate that there is likely to be a minimum of 1,500 potentially habitable planets within just 50 light-years of Earth.

Whether other planets are inhabited - whether there is life and perhaps even intelligent life - is a fascinating question. What does the Torah say about the possibility of extraterrestrial life? Some Rabbis posit that it would be arrogant for man to think he is the only created being in G-d's universe. Others reason that inasmuch as the universe was created for man, no other creature can exist possessing free will, and thus would have no reason for existing.

Perhaps a more essential question to consider is: Ultimately, does it matter? Speculation on whether we are alone in the universe prompts interesting and even important discussions, but shouldn't distract us from our main task. That task is: "...what is good, and what does G-d require of you? Act justly, love deeds of kindness, and walk humbly with your G-d." (Micah 6:8)

Quote of the Week

"As you grow older, you'll see white men cheat black men every day of your life, but let me tell you something and don't you forget it - whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from, he

is trash". – Atticus Finch, Attorney, in Harper Lee's novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Joke of the Week

Yankel is driving in Jerusalem. He's late for a meeting; he's looking for a parking space, and can't find one. In desperation he turns to Heaven and says, "G-d, if you find me a parking place, I promise I will fully keep kosher, observe Shabbos and all the holidays." Miraculously, a place opens up just in front of him. He turns his face up to Heaven and says, "Never mind, G-d. I just found one!"



OYVEY!

Why Attend Minyan? #3

One says Kaddish for eleven months after the death of a parent and for 30 days after the death of a brother, sister, wife, husband or child. One also recites Kaddish on the anniversary of a loved one's death. **Without a minyan** to respond 'Amen', you, your fellow congregants and the stranger who walks in one morning to say Kaddish, cannot honor their loved ones.

Howard Sandler (409-7266)
Rabbi Smason (749-5271)
Synagogue Office (991-2100)

Irvin Alper Social Club

Join us for a unique event on Sunday Feb. 5, featuring **Secret Service Agent Doug Roberts** with a special presentation on **"How to avoid Identity Theft, Credit Card Fraud and Assassination by a Foreign Power"**

Mr. Roberts has served every president since Gerald Ford; he recently moved to St. Louis from Crawford, Texas, where he was assigned to former president George W. Bush. Bring your friends so they won't miss this exciting presentation.

4 pm - Guest Speaker, 5 pm – Dinner:
Corned Beef Sandwich with all the trimmings.

\$7 per person. RSVP **Ruth Alper** 314-569-2877

Interested in Learning Shechita?

call **Dr. Ethan Schuman** at 314 791-2951

Mazel Tov On Simchas This Week

January 21 - January 27

Happy Birthday

Lenny Alper
Abe Dobin
Chaim Faden
Steven Weiner

Les Sabol
Rachael Pevnick
Evelyn Marbain

Happy Anniversary

None this week

Show your friends you care - SEND A TRIBUTE
Shul: Call Gloria Waxman 314-872-3296
Sisterhood: Phyllis Silverman 314-434-2482
Libby Needle Fund: Sally Needle 314-991-2575

Rabbi Noah Weinberg Memorial Lecture Wednesday, February 1st at 8 pm at the Aish Firehouse

Rabbi Yerachmiel Milstein, close confidante and student of Rabbi Weinberg, will present **"Realizing Your Full Potential: The Five Levels of Free Will"**

Cost: \$10 suggested donation
Location: 457 N. Woods Mill Rd.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
Information: call 314-862-AISH (2474)

Stump the Rabbi

'*Stump the Rabbi*' is your chance to ask Rabbi Smason questions about Judaism. Any question is fair game! You can ask the rabbi your questions any time on Shabbos or during the week, or email him at: Pepshort613@gmail.com

Half Torah?

Question: What is the 'Haftarah'? What does the word 'Haftarah' mean?

Answer: The Haftarah is a short selection from one of the *Nevi'im* (books of the Prophets) that follows the Torah reading on Shabbos and Yom Tov.

Contrary to what some might think, the word 'Haftarah' does not mean 'half Torah', or have the word 'Torah' as part of its root. The word is derived from the Hebrew word meaning 'taking leave' or 'parting'; thus, in context, it could perhaps be translated as 'concluding portion.'

As a side note, less than 5 per cent of the *Nevi'im* are read during Shabbos and Yom Tov services throughout the year. Within the selection of weekly and festival Haftarat, all the prophetic books of *Tenach* (the Jewish Bible) are represented except for two. Do you know what they are?

Getting to Know You

by Roving Reporter Robin Rickerman

This week's person of interest is Lenny Alper



Tell us a bit about your family history.

My parents were Irvin Alper and Becky Ludwig. My dad's father was from Vilna, Lithuania. My dad's mother was from Fastov, near Kiev, Ukraine. They met in St. Louis and got married here in 1918. They were members of Nusach Hari along with my grandfather's parents. My mom's parents were from Kremenets, now Ukraine, then Poland. They came to St. Louis in 1920, and were members of Bais David Synagogue (also known as the Belt Avenue Shiel, *not shul*!) My parents were married in August 1945, and were on their honeymoon in New York, in Times Square on V-J Day. I am married to Fran Ferman Alper, and have two daughters - Caryn and Joanna.

What is your favorite Jewish holiday, and why?

Succos, because it is so tactile.

What is something about you that most people don't know?

At Ladue High School, I played the mayor of Sweet Apple, Ohio, in *Bye Bye Birdie*.

How did you come to be a member of NHBZ?

I was born into it, and wouldn't know how to behave anyplace else.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go, and what would you do there?

I've been watching Hawaii 5-0. I wouldn't mind going to Hawaii to relax and go sightseeing. I would like to see the USS Arizona Memorial.

ISRAEL CORNER

Did you know that Israelis have won first place at the World University Debating Championships three years in a row, a feat never achieved by any other country?



Scholarship Opportunities for Teen Travel to Israel

The Central Agency for Jewish Education and the Jewish Federation of St. Louis announce the availability of scholarships for teen travel to Israel.

Applications are available at www.cajestl.org or by contacting Karen Rader at 314-442-3756 or krader@cajestl.org.

ALL APPLICATIONS DUE FEB. 13, 2012, and will not be accepted if incomplete or received after this date.



PIZZA PIZZA PIZZA at NHBZ!!!

Lion's Den DINE- IN Pizza Night SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 !!

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

All-You-Can-Eat Buffet of Pizza, Pasta Salad, Garlic Bread & Salad plus Dessert & Beverage

Kids 3 & under: FREE, Kids 4-12: \$6, Adults: \$10

NEXT CARRY-OUT NIGHT IS FEBRUARY 15

NHBZ Shul Tributes - January, 2012

IN MEMORY OF

Roslyn Litwin
Howard Sandler
Ruth Alper
Bob & Joni Kaiser
Mickey Hoffman & Family
Mimi Fiszal
Sherry Rubin, niece of Sylvia Tessler
Lil Simpson
Rabbi Aaron & Pearl Borow

IN HONOR OF

Election as President of NHBZ of
Janet Haber
Sally Needle
Larry & Barbara Poger
Ellie & Lionel Kaiser
Bob & Joni Kaiser
Birthday of Rayna Chervitz
Jessica Fadem
Myra Ozersky
Jerry & Fran Goldberg

Alice Redler
Irwin & Roz Rosen
Mel & Marsha Tash
Birthday of Robin Rickerman
Shirley Fredlich
Birthday of Larry Hollander
Shirley Fredlich
Birthday of Shirley Hollander
Shirley Fredlich
Birthday of Sally Tofle
Shirley Fredlich
Harold & Fran Hoffman
Birthday of Dr. Susan Feigenbaum
Shirley Fredlich
Harold & Fran Hoffman
Wedding Anniversary of
Fran & Lenny Alper
Shirley Fredlich
Birthday of Gloria Waxman
Shirley Fredlich
Birthday of Ina Makovsky
Harold & Fran Hoffman

Wedding Anniversary of
Gary & Trudy Sudin
Alan & Janet Haber
Birthday of Mayer Taller
Alan & Janet Haber
Birthday of Harold Hoffman
Alan & Janet Haber
Wedding of Scott & Leslie Gitel
Irwin & Roz Rosen
Wedding Anniversary of
Dr. Craig & Jackie Berkin
Mayer Taller

A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO

Sheryl Levine
Isabel Pollock
Toby Braverman
Larry & Faith Comensky
Adrian Jackson
Joyce Kabak
Harry Shecter
Joyce Kabak

NHBZ Libby Needle Fund Tributesb - January, 2012

IN HONOR OF

Wedding Anniversary of
Dr. Craig & Jackie Berkin
Fabian & Francine Attoun

Election as President of NHBZ of
Janet Haber
Sally Needle

Trib-ute (trib'yoot)

A gift, payment, declaration, or other acknowledgement of gratitude, respect or admiration.

Make a tribute honor someone's simcha or good health or a loved one's memory

Synagogue Tribute - Call **Gloria Waxman** 314-872-3296

Sisterhood Tribute - Call **Phyllis Silverman** 314-434-2482

Libby Needle Fund Tribute - Call **Sally Needle** 314-991-2575

Tributes are listed every 1 – 2 months in the Shabbos bulletin.

Treats & Tunes for Tu B'Shevat for Kids & Adults!!!

Saturday night, February 4, 2012

Kids' program 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm – Adults' program 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

For Kids: Music, Creative Arts & Crafts, And Snacks!

For Adults: Tu B'Shevat Seder, Hamburgers/Hot Dogs, Music & All That Jazz!!

Overlapping times add to the delight of the evening as children and adults are entertained with music, fun & food. Rabbi Smason will enlighten us about "The Fruits of the Land of Israel." Enjoy the fruits of the trees native to Israel - Figs, Dates, Pomegranates, Olives, Grapes, Wheat & Barley!