

*Honoring the Past - Taking Pride in the Future*



נוסח הארי בני ציון

*Helping You To Reclaim Your...*

...Heritage

...Community

...History

...Commitment

נוסח הארי בני ציון

Helping You To Reclaim Your...

*Heritage*



**N**ow, more than ever, Jews are reconnecting to their heritage through identity, through education, through family, through personal observance, and through belonging. Many Jews have found that Jewish spirituality can be both modern and relevant.

Nusach Hari B'nai Zion is sensitive to the complimentary nature of, and the challenges and tensions between Judaism and the American culture of which we are a part. That's why we view personal levels of observance as just that—personal. That's also why we offer opportunities for personal growth and exploration. Our members dictate their own lives without our judgment. We offer the tools so that the choices that are made are informed choices.

The menu of opportunities available include:

- **Children's Services every Shabbat and on Holidays**
- **Ongoing classes for Adults and Children**
- **Home Group learning opportunities hosted by members in their homes and addressing some of the most compelling issues of the day**
- **Regular Guest speakers on wide ranging topics from current events in Israel to the Jewish perspective on medical research**
- **Discussion groups**
- **Personal one-on-one learning**
- **Discovering and nurturing YOUR intellectual curiosities and thirst for knowledge**

נוסח הארי בני ציון

Helping You To Reclaim Your...

*Community*



Most of us grew up in “neighborhoods” where we knew our neighbors. There was a feeling of belonging, and people looked out for one another. Much of that has been lost in America in the 21st Century. Or has it?

Nusach Hari B’nai Zion has an unparalleled commitment to creating and maintaining a real sense of community. After more than 50 years at the same location, NHBZ has made the bold assessment that the community would be better served if it moved. NHBZ has completed the purchase of a site chosen to uniquely balance the following needs:

- **A residential setting that allows for easy and safe access from neighborhood homes**
- **A neighborhood with a mix of home and apartment styles that will cater to both singles and families of diverse economic capabilities, ages and personal situations**
- **An excellent public school district for those who have not opted for a Jewish Day School**
- **A central location providing easy access to work, school, shopping, public parks and entertainment**
- **A centralized location for Youth events, and an inviting space for youth activities**
- **A City that is energetic about development and welcomes our Synagogue as a positive influence**

Of course, NHBZ brings to the new location an already well developed sense of community that nurtures constructive involvement in the lives of others. Our members are there not only when you celebrate a joyful event but in times of need, illness, or just to lend a helping hand. As in the past, NHBZ remains committed to supporting the much larger Jewish community. Plans for the new building currently contain space allocated for other community-wide organizations. By way of example, NHBZ has long housed Ohr Atid, a community based religious school for kids with special needs.

נוסח הארי בני ציון

Helping You To Reclaim Your...

*History*



Connecting to roots is a quintessentially Jewish experience.

In 2005 NHBZ celebrated its 100th birthday. And it has quite a history to celebrate.

A Nusach refers to the traditional order and form of the prayers. Nusach Hari's name is derived from the desire to pray "in the spirit of Ari" — the sixteenth-century Kabbalist Rabbi Isaac Luria (known as "The Ari," an acronym for "the Holy Rabbi Issac.") The Ari revolutionized the study of Jewish mysticism through Kabbalah, and taught that each commandment had a mystical meaning. The Ari developed his "Nusach" through his respect for all strains of tradition and customs in Judaism and although he was of Ashkenazic descent, preferred Sephardic prayer liturgy. Today, the Nusach Hari is the preferred order and form of prayer amongst kabbalists all over the world.

Nusach Hari began in 1901 as a small minyan of Russian immigrants who met in a private home at 11th and Biddle. By 1905 the group, which had grown to forty families, rented a hall at 13th and Biddle for their services and officially chartered their congregation. In 1907 the charter was revised under the name Ohavay Shalom Nusach Hari ("lovers of peace in the manner of the Ari"). Another move was made in 1912 to larger quarters on 14th Street. In 1920, with a growing membership of nearly 250, the congregation purchased its own synagogue building from Beth Hamedrosh Hagodal at 1125 N. 11th Street. There they became a major center for the surrounding Jewish neighborhood, offering religious services, and cultural and community events. In 1938, as their congregants moved west, along with much of the St. Louis Jewish population, attendance at the downtown location declined. Nusach Hari moved again, to a former residence at 1395 Blackstone Avenue in the West End.

Eventually, Nusach Hari acquired land in the western edge of University City where it opened a new synagogue in 1959 with a 412-seat sanctuary, an auditorium, and a chapel. In 1961, Nusach Hari merged with B'nai Zion, a congregation founded in 1908 in the South Broadway area.

**Now called Nusach Hari B'nai Zion, the congregation has purchased property and is planning a new building, located at Price and Old Bonhomme in Olivette.**

*Throughout its history, Nusach Hari has continued its respect for Jews of all traditions, customs and level of observance. Under its current rabbinic leadership of Rabbi Ze'ev Smason, the synagogue provides for a healthy mix of the mystical and the practical components of Judaism.*

נוסח הארי בני ציון

Helping You To Reclaim Your...

*Commitment*



**C**ommitment...is what transforms a promise into reality. It is the action that speaks louder than words.

We welcome you and your family to join us in our second century as we grow together for worship, study and socializing. Membership at NHBZ provides an opportunity to make a commitment to support the work of the synagogue.

### *Benefits of Membership*

In addition to the contributions you provide through participation, service and funding you also receive benefits, both measurable and immeasurable. Benefits include:

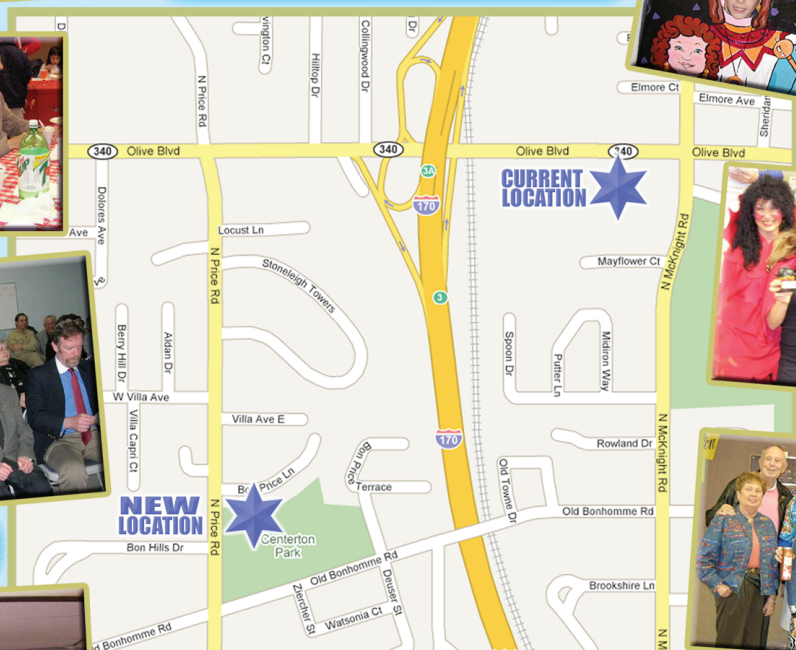
- **High Holyday tickets for your family**
- **Workshops in preparation for High Holydays and Passover**
- **A regular Minyan every day, twice a day**
- **Regular Shabbat Services and generous welcoming Kiddushim**
- **Opportunities to share special occasions and life cycle events with your community**
- **A place to receive support and comfort in times of difficulty or loss**
- **Regular information about NHBZ activities**
- **Access to the Rabbi for counseling, hospital visits, and personal consultations or questions regarding Jewish law or practice**
- **Use of the synagogue facilities in observance of life cycle events, such as weddings, bris milahs, bar and bat mitzvot, and baby namings**
- **Participation in Passport to Israel program for your children**
- **Knowing that you make a difference**

Nusach Hari B'nai Zion welcomes as members all Jews, regardless of background, affiliation, or level of knowledge or observance.

An Application for Membership is available online at [www.nhbz.org](http://www.nhbz.org) or by calling the synagogue office at (314) 991-2100, Ext. 2.

Membership is not dependent on financial status. Alternative arrangements for dues can be discussed with the Synagogue President on a confidential basis.

# נוסח הארי בני ציון



W elcome to our shul!

NHBZ is a Jewish community that serves the diverse interests and needs of our membership. Regardless of an individual's level of Jewish knowledge or observance, each and every Jew is welcomed to our shul with open arms. We are more than a building. We are a home for Jewish study, prayer, and acts of loving-kindness. In my more than 8 years at Nusach Hari B'nai Zion (NHBZ), I have seen young children, including my own, grow up in an environment where Judaism is celebrated and where each member of the community is welcomed.

We offer services and programs for Shabbos, holidays, and throughout the year. Our members learn from each other, making friends across the generations. B'nai mitzvah, baby namings, and wedding anniversaries are all celebrated by a congregation that has become like family.

Anyone who walks through our doors will feel that that they have made a new friend and a place to belong. It is something my wife, Chani and I have greatly treasured in our many years here. We look forward to your participation in NHBZ to help strengthen us as we move forward in the 21st century. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to know more about our congregation.

Rabbi Ze'ev Smason

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PRELIMINARY DESIGN RENDERING OF  
THE NEW NHBZ SYNAGOGUE