



NHBZ Weekly News

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

December 11, 2021 • 7 Teves 5782 • Candle Lighting 4:21 pm • Shabbos Concludes 5:24

Parshas Vayigash
Haftorah

Genesis 44:18 – 47:27
Ezekiel 37:15 – 37:28

Stone Chumash pp. 250 – 267
Stone Chumash pp. 1144 – 1145

ATTENTION: The Eruv is down for this Shabbos

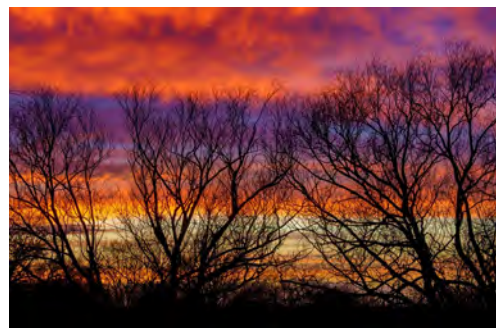
Prayer

Shabbos, Friday, December 10

- 4:20 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv
- 4:21 pm Candle Lighting

Shabbos, Saturday, December 11

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf
Pesukei D'Zimra: **Howard Sandler** Haftorah: **Kenny Bressler**
Shacharis: **Rabbi Avi Okin** Sermon: **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason**
Leyning: **Stuart Klamen** Musaf: **Rabbi Avi Okin**
- 4:05 pm Mincha, Shalosh Seudos, Ma'ariv
- 5:24 pm Shabbos concludes



Minyan Times December 9 – December 18, 2021

	Thu Dec 9	Fri Dec 10	Shabbos Dec 11	Sun Dec 12	Mon Dec 13	Tues Dec 14	Wed Dec 15	Thu Dec 16	Fri Dec 17	Shabbos Dec 18
Shachris (am)	7:00	7:00	9:00	8:00	7:00	6:45*	7:00	7:00	7:00	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	--	4:20	4:05	4:20	4:20	4:05	--	--	4:20	4:10
Ma'ariv Only (pm)	6:45	--	--	--		--	6:45	6:45	--	--

*Fast of 10 Teves Fast begins at 6:01 am
Fast ends at 5:22 pm

Call for Minyanim

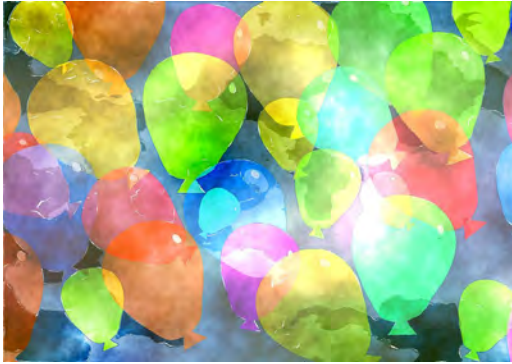
Your attendance is needed. Check in with Rabbi Smason or Howard Sandler and find a time when you can help. If you would like to receive SMS reminders for your minyan attendance, please send the following information to minyan@nhbz.org: Name; cell number and carrier; and times for which you would like reminders.

Shabbos Mornings Kids' Programs

Every Shabbos, from 10:00 am until Kiddush is served, NHBZ offers programs for elementary and middle school students. Bring them into the beauty of honoring Shabbos with their community. Families do NOT need to be members of NHBZ to participate. See you Shabbos!

Congregation News

Mazel Tov on Simchas This Week! December 12 – December 18



Happy Birthday

Chiyya Smason	December 12
Sheera Tzadok	December 12
Rodney John	December 15
Sandra Abrams	December 16
Dr. Jonathan Shanker	December 17
Victoria John	December 18
Jay Umansky	December 18

HAPPY 116TH ANNIVERSARY **NUSACH HARI B'NAI ZION**

Dust off those good duds, polish your faces and shoes. It has been a long time coming. Let's CELEBRATE! We look forward to spending the evening together, and taking the time to recognize our honorees. There will be Pearls of Wisdom, too!

LIVE and IN-PERSON -- Sunday at the Clayton Plaza.
Parking validated at our greeting desk.
Take care of yourself and each other. Be safe. Stay well.



Events

Coming Soon

- Sunday, December 12 – 116th Anniversary Event –
LIVE & In-Person at the Clayton Plaza
- Shabbos morning, December 18 – NHBZ is pleased to welcome **special guest**
Rabbi Shmuel Miller, Headmaster of the
H.F. Epstein Hebrew Academy

On-Going

- Online Classes – See listing on Page 7
- Every Shabbos, 9:15 am – Learners' Service with Rabbi David
- 10:00 am – Shabbos Morning Kids' Program
- 10:15 am – Starting Points with Rabbi Smason
- Mondays, 8:00 pm – St. Louis Kollel Amud-A-Week
- Wednesdays, 12:15 pm – Pirkei Avos Class with Rabbi Smason
- Thursdays, 7:00 pm – Mishmar Learning with Rabbi Okin
- Saturday Nights, 7:30 pm – ChillZone with Rabbi Okin
- Sundays, 9:00 am – Teen Schmooze with Rabbi Okin

NHBZ is pleased to welcome Special Guest Rabbi Shmuel Miller, Headmaster of the H.F. Epstein Hebrew Academy. Please join us, next Shabbos, December 18, 2021.

Tributes for the month of November, 2021

IN MEMORY OF

SENT BY

Pamela Feigenbaum	Libby Sorkin Routman Bob & Joni Kaiser Jesse & Debbie Barash Dr. Jerry & Gail Tullman The Morgensztern Family	Fran Hoffman Dr. Eliot & Sally Katz Rachael Pevnick Howard & Phyllis Loiterstein Sam & Shirley Bluestein	Dr. Alan & Marcie Brook Dr. Craig & Jackie Berkin Reuven & Margo Tzadok
Dr. Shawn Lewis Berkin	Irwin & Arlene Fredman The Szus Family The Morgensztern Family Dr. David & Fran Reisler Dr. Eliot & Sally Katz	Libby Sorkin Routman Ed & Helayne Levitt Dr. Erol & Sally Amon Rachael Pevnick Keith & Karen Zeff	Sam & Shirley Bluestein Jay & Peggy Umansky Amy & Denny Feit Dr. Jerry & Gail Tullman Howard & Phyllis Loiterstein
Nina Grace Levine	Ed & Helayne Levitt Sarah Schaefer Irwin & Arlene Fredman Dr. Marcie & Alan Brook Leslie & Scott Gitel Jesse & Debbie Barash Howard Sandler Sonia Dobinsky	Dr. Erol & Sally Amon Amy & Denny Feit Libby Sorkin Routman Gary Benson The Szus Family Adriane Underwood Ilana Dress	Rachael Pevnick Dale Kroke (St. Louis Music) Samantha & Jake Dolgin Jessica Fadem Dr. Jerry & Gail Tullman Ronald Indeck Dr. Eliot & Sally Katz
Mindy Woolf's Aunt, Linda Cohn		Bob & Joni Kaiser	
Gloria Waxman		Dr. Craig & Jackie Berkin Henry & Suzanne Stolar	

IN CELEBRATION OF

Emma Zarkowsky	Bob & Joni Kaiser Sam & Shirley Bluestein Jay & Peggy Umansky The Szus Family
Rabbi Okin Chag Hasmicha	Dr. Jerry & Gail Tullman

REFUAH SHELEMA

Jay Umansky	Ed & Helayne Levitt Bob & Joni Kaiser
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IN HONOR OF

David Rubin's recognition as among America's best Lawyers	Keith & Karen Zeff
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GLOW OF SUCCESS for A GREAT CHANUKAH PARTY

Such fun!!!! A BIG thank you to our very generous sponsors: **Amy & Denny Feit, Janet & Alan Haber,** and **Bryson & Jennifer Hartranft.**

Anna Rose Tendler, Jackie Berkin and **Sandy Klarfeld** filled the kitchen with love and laughter as they prepared to fill our bellies with YUMMY treats, while **Bob Kaiser** pitched in to help **Allan Swan, Teretha Carter** and **Denny** set up all the great decorations **Amy** found.

Jennifer greeted everyone and **Rabbi Smason** welcomed the group. **Rabbi Okin** made sure the young families enjoyed the festivities,

All of this was accompanied by **Howard Sandler** tickling the ivories and **Mike Gerloff** making the most amazing balloon creations!

Rachael Pevnick brought her great sense of humor and light-heartedness to Bingo calling, and **Amy** happily delivered the prizes to the lucky winners. It's fair to say, a great time was had by all!

From the Rabbi Search Committee

As you know, several weeks ago Rabbi Smason informed the congregation of his intention to step down as Rabbi of NHBZ. We join all of our fellow members, and the community at large, in thanking Rabbi Smason for his remarkable leadership and all he has done for our Shul over the last almost 25 years.

The Rabbi Search Committee has begun its task of seeking the next Rabbi of our Shul. We will actively seek the input of all members and, throughout the process, be as transparent as possible while maintaining the proper confidentiality required.

In the coming weeks, we will detail the process we are starting and invite members to meet with us to learn more about the process and tell us what you are looking for in our new Rabbi.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact us either by email: rabbiseach@nhbz.org or by calling Alan Zarkowsky, committee chair, 314-805-1896.

On-going Covid Guidelines Shul Policy

NHBZ requires that all people attending tefila (prayer services), classes or other NHBZ programs and activities show proof of vaccination. You may show your vaccination card to Rabbi Smason whenever convenient for you both, or on Shabbos as you enter the shul. Once you have shown Rabbi Smason your vaccination card, there is no need to do so again.

If we have no proof of vaccination, you are welcome to join Shabbos services from the Kaiser Terrace on the West side of the synagogue. You are also welcome to enter the synagogue to ask a question of the rabbis and staff, conduct business in the office, pick up or leave an item, or for any other reason that might last for a brief period of time.

Masks required of all inside attendees, age 3 and older; masks are strongly encouraged for those outside, too. Children aged 12 and older have the same vaccination requirements as adults.

In the Community

Halachic Estate Planning: Rabbi Ari Marburger hosts a Zoom Meeting on Monday, December 13 at 1:00 pm, on Halachic Estate Planning. The Zoom meeting ID is 882-183-0991. Please email office@stlkollel.com with questions.

Youth Programming

Shabbos Morning Kids' Program, Every Shabbos

NHBZ offers Shabbos morning programs for elementary and middle school students. Programs offered from 10:00 am until Kiddush is served. All program content will be personally designed and coordinated by Rabbi Okin. Families do NOT need to be members of NHBZ to participate. Please contact Rabbi Okin at aviokin@nhbz.org with any questions. See you on Shabbos!



ChillZone Saturday nights

Join children from around St. Louis, 5th grade and up, at NHBZ at 7:30 pm on Saturday nights for pizza, fun, and prizes while exploring Judaic topics with Rabbi Okin. Come get in the ChillZone.

Teen Schmooze, Sundays

“**Teen Schmooze**”, a special opportunity just for teens in an informal group setting, is now underway. This program meets every Sunday – middle school students start at 9:00 am, and high school students at 9:30 am. **Join us in the back of the NHBZ Sanctuary.** Breakfast will be served! For details, contact **Rabbi Okin** at aviokin@nhbz.org.

Trib-ute (trib'yoot)

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

Make a tribute in honor of someone's simcha or good health, or in memory of a loved one.

Call the office at 314-991-2100, ext 2, or email to office@nhbz.org to make a tribute.

Tributes are listed monthly in the Weekly Newsletter.

Learning at NHBZ

● **Parashas Vayigash – By Rabbi Smason**

Judah makes an impassioned plea to the powerful Egyptian ruler (Joseph, still in disguise) for Benjamin's life, claiming that Jacob would surely die from sorrow if he lost Benjamin. Judah offers to remain in Egypt as a slave in place of his younger brother. Unable to restrain himself any longer, Joseph reveals his identity to his stunned brothers and forgives them for selling him into slavery so many years before.

Joseph then sends his brothers back to the land of Israel, laden with gifts, to bring Jacob and their families down to Egypt where they will live in the province of Goshen. Before Jacob leaves home, G-d appears to him in a 'vision of the night', reassuring him that He will be with them and that they will eventually return to the land of Israel as a great nation. After 22 years of separation, Jacob is reunited with his beloved son Joseph. Joseph embraces his father and weeps, overflowing with joy, and then brings his father to meet Pharaoh. The portion concludes by describing how Joseph uses his vast power to amass nearly all of the wealth of Egypt for Pharaoh's treasury.

Ask Our Rabbis

Q: When we die and go to heaven, are we reunited with our parents and family members who have predeceased us? And when we leave our body, how will we recognize who is who? Souls don't have faces, do they?

A: It can be difficult to listen to someone else's dream they had last night. That may be because dreams are very personal. Only you can relate to your own dream. To anyone else, it's nonsense, boring -- or both.

Have you ever had the experience in a dream where you are talking to someone, and you know who they are, even though they don't look like themselves? For example, the Jolly Green Giant is standing before you, but it's actually your grandfather.

In your own dream, it makes perfect sense to you that a giant mascot is actually a frail old European man. Because dream imagery is not literal but symbolic.. If your grandfather looms large in your psyche, he may appear that way in your dream.

If I would ask you, how do you know that the Giant was really your grandfather? The answer: You just know.

The afterlife is a bit like a dream. We leave this world and enter into a non-physical state. We meet other souls there, all without bodies. And we recognize them. We see them and we just know.

● Rabbi Smason's Starting Points

Join Rabbi Smason for a 45-minute presentation/discussion of relevant, contemporary topics every Shabbos at 10:15 am in the Feigenbaum-Pepose Multi-Purpose Room.

Upcoming topics:

December 11	Lend Me an Ear: Are You a Good Listener?
December 18	EQ: Can We Master Our Emotions?
December 25	The December Dilemma: Living Jewishly in a Non-Jewish World
January 1	Welcoming 2022: How to Begin Getting Happier
January 8	Living Inspired: How Can We "Capture the Wow" in Our Lives?



● Rabbi Smason's Wednesday In-Person Class – **No Class December 15, 2021**

Same place, same time, same health and safety rules.

● Rabbi David's Learners' Service

Every Shabbos at 9:15 am. Just starting out? No worries. Rabbi David teaches the basics of Shabbos prayers.

● NHBZ Mishmar

- Join Rabbi Okin and young men from all over St. Louis for Mishmar, an evening gathering of Torah and Camaraderie on Thursday Nights from 7:00 pm – 7:30 pm. **We will meet in the back of the NHBZ sanctuary** with a text-based and interactive learning session. If you are interested, please contact Rabbi Okin at aviokin@nhbz.org.

● Rabbi Smason's Shabbos Shoutout

The complete list of Shabbos Shoutouts, with most recent listed first, can be found at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI_MFI0zsmKlImpR3KpHROrHDWIDNbqsN

● Rabbi Okin's Torah Thoughts

The complete list of Torah Thoughts, with most recent listed first, can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI_MFI0zsmKJG-HuXMG1Ej2aUImgQHkJ-



NHBZ Online Classes

Rabbi Ze'ev Smason will keep you connected during this challenging time. The classes listed below are easy to join and you can drop in on one without having previously attended. All classes are offered through Zoom video conferencing on your computer or smart phone (you do not need to download the Zoom application to see the class) AND through audio only on your telephone.

Instructions to Attend Classes

For audio through your telephone, connect in one of two ways:

1. *Preferred option* - Call 312-626-6799 which connects you to the ZOOM audio number and will enable you to participate fully, except for the video. Toll Free.
2. Or call 314-325-8791 for our old audio connection. We encourage you to use the *preferred option* since this way might become unavailable soon.

For Zoom video, each class has a Zoom link shown underlined in blue below. Click or tap on the link, or copy and paste the link into your browser to join the class.

List of Rabbi Ze'ev Smason's Zoom Classes

1. Weekdays, 8:15 am (Sun 9:15 am) ~ New topic "Tehillim Tips: Insights Into Our Prayers". Sessions are approximately 30 minutes.
Zoom video link: <https://zoom.us/j/99013706617>
2. Monday thru Friday, 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm ~ "King Solomon: His Wisdom, Wealth and Wives".
Zoom video link: <https://zoom.us/j/136785930> **No Class December 14-16**
3. Fridays, 8:15 am ~ Discussion of the "Haftorah of the Week"
Zoom video link: <https://zoom.us/j/99013706617>

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

NHBZ is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, and 52 weeks per year. We need your help. Whatever your skills, we have an opportunity for you: office work, cooking, pickup and delivery, repairs, Pizza night, Sukkah raising, outreach committee, building committee, you-name-it!

Please contact the Office by phone (314) 991-2100, ext. 2 or email office@nhbz.org with your availability and skills and we will gladly put you to work!



THE SISTERHOOD SCOOP

DECEMBER 11

Volume 4

Number 47

7 Tevet 5782

December 11, 2021

Sisterhood congratulates
Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

on its

116th Anniversary

Sunday, December 12

at the

Clayton Plaza Hotel



Mazel tov to the honorees!

Parsha Vayigash

A Long-Lost Reunion With a Lasting Message

Nowadays, many of us feel a need to “zone out” or “anesthetize” ourselves from the pressures of life. We’ll retreat to social media or any other mind-deadening activity to escape from feeling “too much” reality.

We’ve gotten pretty good at numbing our emotions, but do we ever consider what makes us passionate? What gets our blood pumping? What excites us and arouses our emotions? And, most importantly, how do we channel those deep feelings into positive action?

This week’s parshah, Vayigash, describes the heart-wrenching reunion between Jacob and his beloved son, Joseph. For 22 agonizing years, they had been separated, with Jacob fearing the worst. What will happen at their first meeting? Joseph’s emotional response is expected; he falls on his father’s neck and weeps (Gen 46:29). Jacob’s reaction, however, is unusual. He does not embrace or kiss Joseph. Instead, he recites the Shema prayer (Rashi, *ibid*).

Why did Jacob choose this profoundly passionate, heartfelt moment to occupy himself with prayer? The Chassidic Masters explain: *Jacob knew that never in his life would his love be aroused as it was at that moment. So he chose to utilize this tremendous welling of emotion to serve His Creator, channeling it to fuel his love for G-d.*

Imagine how many tears Jacob shed during those long, anguished years. Finally, he is reunited with a child who was torn from him during his tender teen years. As Jacob’s heart spills over with an overabundance of love and gratitude, he chooses to channel those feelings into prayer.

As a parent, I often wonder, when do our children see us express our passion? In what situations do they see us express great joy or grief? Do our children see our regret over the huge sale we missed, or do they see us exult over the kindness that they just exhibited? Do they witness our pressures over financial matters, or do they see our eagerness and delight in helping another? What messages are we giving them about what is truly important to us? And, in our happiest (or saddest) moments, how do we channel our most deep-felt emotions? Do we use our moments of intense happiness to give thanks and appreciation to our Creator? Do we use our successes and good fortune to remember the plight of others?

As he descends to Egypt, Jacob enters his final chapter of life. He will now prepare his children for their destiny of becoming the nation worthy of receiving the Torah, with the ultimate goal of transforming our world into G-d’s intended home.

Through his reaction at this most passionate moment of his life, Jacob imparts an essential message for us during our own life journeys, throughout our long exile.

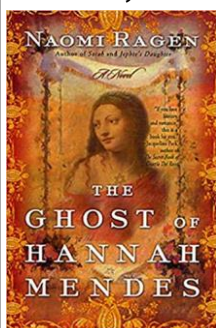
He teaches us to ask: What makes us passionate, and how can we direct our greatest passions in the most positive ways?

– by **Chana Weisberg**, www.chabad.org

Book Club News

The next book club meeting has been rescheduled to **Monday, January 24, 7:15-8:45 pm**. The discussion is currently **scheduled to be virtual – on Zoom only**.

The book will be **“The Ghost of Hannah Mendes,”** a novel by Naomi Ragen that



Is based on the true-life story of Dona Gracia Mendes who grew up in Spain and Portugal during the start of the Spanish & Portuguese Inquisitions. It fictionalizes Gracia’s descendants now living in the United States.

For more info contact
Terri Schnitzer 314-518-4107
terrischnitzer@yahoo.com





CHILLZONE

— 2021 - 2022 —

chillzone.org

[insta@chillzone_national](https://www.instagram.com/chillzone_national)

[fb@chillzoneintl](https://www.facebook.com/chillzoneintl)

St. Louis

Girls & Boys
5th grade & up

Saturday nights
@ 7:30 pm

Need info? chillzone@thezone.org

Rabbi Avi Okin: 862-438-4094

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