



NHBZ Weekly News

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

January 1, 2022 • 28 Teves 5782 • Candle Lighting 4:31pm • Shabbos Concludes 5:35pm

Parshas Vaeira
Haftorah

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

Stone Chumash pp. 318 – 339
Stone Chumash pp. 1149 – 1150

ATTENTION: Please call the Eruv hotline at (314) 863-1811 for Eruv status for this Shabbos

We thank our generous sponsors of this week's Weekly News and enhanced Kiddush

- David Rubin for dedicating this newsletter and kiddush enhancement to the beloved memory of his mother, Shaindel Bas Dov Ber, z'l
- Kenny Bressler "in recognition of Menachem Szus's awesome Presidential leadership over the past two years"
- Dr. Susan Feigenbaum for providing muffins in honor of Dr. Jay Pepose's birthday (January 9)

Prayer

Shabbos, Friday, December 31

- 4:25 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv
- 4:31 pm Candle Lighting

Shabbos, Saturday, January 1

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf
Pesukei D'Zimra: **Howard Sandler** Haftorah: **TBA**
Shacharis: **Rabbi Avi Okin** Sermon: **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason**
Leyning: **Stuart Klamen** Musaf: **Rabbi Avi Okin**
- 4:15 pm Mincha, Shalosh Seudos, Ma'ariv
- 5:35 pm Shabbos concludes



Minyan Times December 30 – January 8, 2022

	Thu Dec 30	Fri Dec 31	Shabbos Jan 1	Sun Jan 2	Mon Jan 3*	Tues Jan 4	Wed Jan 5	Thu Jan 6	Fri Jan 7	Shabbos Jan 8
Shachris (am)	7:00	8:00	9:00	8:00	6:45	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	--	4:25	4:15	4:30	4:30	--	--	--	4:30	4:25
Ma'ariv Only (pm)	6:45	--	--	--		6:45	6:45	6:45	--	--

*Rosh Chodesh Shevat

Shabbos Mornings Kids' Programs

Every Shabbos, from 10:00 am until Kiddush is served, NHBZ offers programs for elementary and middle school students. Families do NOT need to be members of NHBZ to participate. See you Shabbos!

Call for Minyanim

Your attendance is needed. Check in with Rabbi Smason or Howard Sandler and commit to a time to help. Text message reminders for your minyan attendance available by providing the following information to minyan@nhbz.org: Name; cell number and carrier; and times for which you would like reminders.

Congregation News

Mazel Tov on Simchas This Week! January 1 – January 7

Belated happy birthday wishes to: Gavriel Matt (12/21) and Melanie Rush (12/26)

Happy Birthday

Dr. Naftali Kadosh	January 1
Mark Seigel	January 2
Avraham Smason	January 4
Stanley Goldfader	January 6
Nancy Lisker	January 6



Happy Anniversary

Robert & Kate Friedman January 1

We ♥ Our Medical Advisors

Please join us for Kiddush lunch, next Shabbos, January 8, 2022 as we honor and pay tribute to the team of medical advisors who have guided us through this pandemic and kept us up to date and accurately informed about the ever-changing Covid situation.

We will also recognize all those who stepped up and helped maintain the Minyanim during those very difficult and trying times.



Project: Information Update

In the next few weeks, mailings will go out to all members containing contact information, birthday and anniversary dates and yahrzeits as recorded in our systems. Please check all information carefully, and return the form provided with all updated information. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation with this important project.

Events

Coming Soon

- Shabbos morning, January 8 – Kiddush lunch in honor of NHBZ's Medical Advisory Team. Please plan to join us.
- Saturday night, January 8 – Pizza Night (Carry-out only)
- Shabbos, January 22 – Kiddush lunch for Installation of Board and Officers

On-Going

- Online Classes – See listing on Page 6
- 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
- Sunday mornings, After Shachris – Mishna learning with Rabbi Swidler

From the Rabbinic Search Committee

As you know, several months 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 Rabbinic 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: rabbisearch@nhbz.org or by calling Alan Zarkowsky, committee chair, 314-805-1896.

Sefer Torah Restoration – GLOW OF SUCCESS

WE DID IT!!! You jumped at the opportunity, and our treasure lives on for the next generation(s)!!

Thank you to our generous donors:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
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| ~ Michael Edelstein | ~ Sally Needle | ~ The Szuses |
| ~ The Feits | ~ The Neudorfs | ~ The Tullmans |
| ~ The Fredmans | | |



We wish you, your family and loved ones a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!



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.

Masks required of all attendees, age 3 and older. Children aged 12 and older have the same vaccination requirements as adults.

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 will resume in the Spring.)

PIZZA NIGHT!!!! Next Saturday night – Carry-out only – January 8, 2022



What's better than Kosher pizza and Saturday night? Cheese pizza or any toppings (onion, mushrooms, green peppers), uncooked or fresh and hot from our oven, \$14 per pie.

Orders must be placed by **Noon, Wednesday, January 5, and prepaid**. Please email orders to office@nhbz.org or call 314-991-2100, ext. 2, and be sure to give us your phone number.

First pick-up is **7:30 pm**, first-come-first- served. You may pay online here:

<https://www.nhbz.org/make-a-payment-2/>

All food under supervision of Rabbi Ze'ev Smason

Learning at NHBZ

● Parashas Vaeira – By Rabbi Smason

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.

Ask Our Rabbis

Q: What is the origin of the Trop, the Cantillation Marks, with which the Torah is read?

A: Our Rabbis tell us (Nedarim 37b) that the Cantillation Marks that we use when we read the Torah were given to Moshe on Mount Sinai as part of the Oral Torah. This is in addition to the vowelization and structure of the verses. It must be noted that were these aspects of the Hebrew language not passed onto the Jewish People via Moshe, we would have absolutely no idea how to read from a Torah, as the text has no punctuation or cantillation included. When we read the Torah each week, let us reflect on how all aspects of the reading, from the words to the tune, connect us to Hashem.

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.

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

Tributes will be listed monthly in the Shabbos bulletin.

● **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:

- 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**

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 7:00pm – 7:30pm. ***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>
3. Fridays, 8:15 am ~ Discussion of the "Haftorah of the Week"
Zoom video link: <https://zoom.us/j/99013706617>



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How it works – it's as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com and sign-in to your Amazon account
2. Under "Pick your organization, search for "Nusach Hari"
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Start Shopping! Every time you shop, sign-in to smile.amazon.com, and you will earn \$\$\$ for [NHBZ](https://www.nhbz.org)



THE SISTERHOOD SCOOP

JANUARY 1



Volume 5

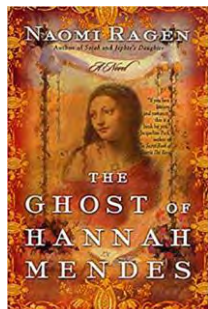
Number 1

28 Tevet 5782

January 1, 2022

Book Club News

The next book club meeting will be on **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 based on the true-life story of Dona Gracia Mendes who grew up in Spain and Portugal during the start of the Spanish and 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



A Few Facts about January 1st

The Roman King Numa Pompilius (715-673 BCE) first introduced a twelve-month calendar with January as its first month, named after the Roman god Janus, which had two faces, symbolically looking into the past and forwards into the future.

Even though January was the first month, the Roman New Year was March 15 for hundreds of years. This changed in 153 BCE when it was switched to January 1. Years later, in 45 BCE, a more comprehensive calendar was adopted by Julius Caesar. His “Julian” calendar kept January 1 as the New Year, but the holiday didn't last in many of the Roman Empire's territories. By the 1500s it became clear that the Julian calendar had serious shortcomings: leap years were miscalculated, causing the Christian festivals to change days and migrate through the calendar. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII introduced a new calendar: the Gregorian Calendar that is still in use today. Among its many innovations, it restored January 1 as New Year's Day in Christian lands. By 1752 an Act of Parliament mandated that all English-speaking lands adopt January 1 as their New Year's Day.

The Romans had a unique numbering system for the days of the month: the first day of each month was called a “Kalend”; the seventh day of each month was called “Nones”; and the 15th day of each month was known as the “Ides”. Other days were counted only by how close they were to these three significant days.

The Talmud notes that Kalend days were celebrated as festivals of idolatry in ancient Rome and cautioned Jews not to do business with Romans on those days in order to avoid taking any part in activities that could be construed as idol worship (Mishnah Avodah Zarah 1:1-5). The Kalends of January in particular was a riotous affair, capping a two-week period when normal rules of behavior and mores were suspended. This violence and period of moral lapses led Jews to avoid taking part in the mid-December and January 1 Roman holidays. – from Dr. Yvette Alt Miller, aish.com

One Size DOES NOT Fit All !

Rashi notes that in some places the Torah mentions Moshe before Aharon and in other places it mentions Aharon before Moshe. This teaches us that both were equally great. This is puzzling, since the Torah itself testifies that Moshe was the greatest prophet who ever lived; how can it be said that Aharon was equal to him? In G-d's eyes, achievement is measured by whether a person fulfills his personal mission. One who has a small mission but completes it is just as great as one with a big mission who completes it. Aharon achieved the absolute maximum of his potential; he fulfilled G-d's will perfectly just as Moshe did. The difference was that Moshe had more missions, which meant that he had more responsibilities. Still, since they both did as they were commanded in accordance with their abilities, they were on an equal level. People can tend to get disheartened that they cannot accomplish as much as their peers. If a person doesn't have the intelligence and capabilities of others, he has to understand that more talent simply means greater responsibility. Rav Yisroel Salanter used to say: “I know that in many ways I have the capacity of 1,000 men, but because of this, my obligation to serve Hashem is also that of one thousand men.” As long as one is maximizing his potential he is just as great as everyone else. – by Rabbi Eli Scheller, aish.com



Members of NHBZ Sisterhood at the 116th Anniversary Banquet on December 12, from left: Sally Katz, Mimi Fiszal, Norman & Linda Shore, Linda Luks, Rhonnie Goldfader

Thanks to all
who attended the
116th Anniversary
Banquet 2021



5 7 8 2





PIZZA NIGHT

CARRY OUT ONLY

SATURDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 8



\$14.00 for a whole cheese pizza with up to
3 toppings: *mushroom - green pepper - onion*

Order fresh & hot from the oven, or uncooked

Call 314-991-2100, ext. 2 by NOON on Wed, Jan 5 to
place and pay for your order and arrange a pickup
time -- first pickup at 7:30pm and then scheduled
as first-come-first-served

You may also email orders to office@nhbz.org and
pay online at <https://www.nhbz.org/make-a-payment-2/>

All food is under the supervision of Rabbi Ze'ev Smason





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

NHBZ
650 N Price Rd
St. Louis, MO 63132