



# NHBZ Weekly News

## Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

December 18, 2021 • 14 Teves 5782 • Candle Lighting 4:23pm • Shabbos Concludes 5:27pm

Parshas Vayechi  
Haftorah

Genesis 47:28 – 50:26  
1 Kings 2:1 – 12

Stone Chumash pp. 268 – 289  
Stone Chumash pp. 1145 – 1146

**ATTENTION: The Eruv is down for this Shabbos**

**We thank our generous sponsors of this week's NHBZ Weekly News**

~ "To honor and thank Lenny & Fran Alper, Alan Haber and Laura Goldmeier for all they do for our shul, community and Israel! Alan: We will always be thankful for your tremendous help and source of inspiration at David's bar mitzvah! Love, The Morgensztern Family"

~ In memory of Elaine Abramson, by her beloved daughter and son-in-law, Amy & Denny Feit

## Prayer

### Shabbos, Friday, December 17

- 4:20 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv
- 4:23 pm Candle Lighting

### Shabbos, Saturday, December 18

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf  
Pesukei D'Zimra: **Howard Sandler** Haftorah: **David Rubin**  
Shacharis: **Rabbi Avi Okin** Sermon: **Rabbi Shmuel Miller**  
Leyning: **Stuart Klamen** Musaf: **Rabbi Shmuel Miller**
- 4:10 pm Mincha, Shalosh Seudos, Ma'ariv
- 5:27 pm Shabbos concludes



### Minyan Times December 16 – December 25, 2021

	Thu Dec 16	Fri Dec 17	Shabbos Dec 18	Sun Dec 19	Mon Dec 20	Tues Dec 21	Wed Dec 22	Thu Dec 23	Fri Dec 24	Shabbos Dec 25
Shachris (am)	7:00	7:00	9:00	8:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	8:00	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	--	4:20	4:10	4:20	4:20	--	--	--	4:20	4:15
Ma'ariv Only (pm)	6:45	--	--	--	--	6:45	6:45	6:45	--	--

### 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](mailto: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. Families do NOT need to be members of NHBZ to participate. See you Shabbos!

## Siyum of Celebration – Next Shabbos (Dec. 25)

We are happy to announce that our Sunday morning Mishna class concluded Mesachta Nazir and also completed the study of Seder (Order) Nashim. We shall celebrate this at the conclusion of the morning service with a short siyum led by Rabbi Chanan Swidler. Mazel tov!

# Congregation News

## Mazel Tov on Simchas This Week! December 19 – December 25

### ***Happy Birthday***

David Gellman	December 19
Leslie Gitel	December 19
Rhonnie Goldfader	December 19
Debbie Finland	December 21
Mindy Woolf	December 21
Norman Liss	December 22
Michael Kass	December 24
Gary Sudin	December 25

### ***Happy Anniversary***

Irl & Myra Solomon	December 21
Jay & Peggy Umansky	December 21

**PSSST.** Please also wish Peggy Umansky a happy birthday this Shabbos (Dec. 18); this will correct last week's publication which listed it as Jay's birthday.

## Welcome to Our Special Guest: Rabbi Shmuel Miller

It is NHBZ's great honor to have as our very special guest Rabbi Shmuel Miller, Headmaster of the H.F. Epstein Hebrew Academy. Rabbi Miller will inspire us with his drasha entitled "Our Last Blessing to Children." Please join us Shabbos, December 18 for this wonderful opportunity.



## Events

### **Coming Soon**

- Shabbos morning, December 25 – Siyum led by Rabbi Chanan Swider at conclusion of morning service

### **On-Going**

- Online Classes – See listing on Page 5
- 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

## **GLOW OF SUCCESS** 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

With nearly 120 in attendance, what a glorious celebration we had! Special thanks to **Fran & Lenny Alper** whose superior organizational skills, hard work and tenacity made for a lovely event that went off without a hitch! Please see the thank you list published at the end of this Newsletter where we express our appreciation for everyone involved!

One more heartfelt congratulations to our honorees: **Fran & Lenny Alper**, **Alan Haber** and **Dr. Laura Goldmeier** and **Shaving Israel**. Mazel Tov!



### **From the Rabbinic 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 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: [rabbiseach@nhbz.org](mailto:rabbiseach@nhbz.org) or by calling Alan Zarkowsky, committee chair, 314-805-1896.

### **On-going Covid Guidelines Remain in Effect**

NHBZ requires that all people attending tefila (prayer services), classes or other NHBZ programs and activities show proof of vaccination. 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](mailto:aviokin@nhbz.org) with any questions. See you on Shabbos!



### **ChillZone** Saturday nights

Join children from around St. Louis, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 – **ON HIATUS – JOIN US FOR ChillZone**

“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](mailto:aviokin@nhbz.org).

# Learning at NHBZ

## ● Parashas Vayechi – By Rabbi Smason

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.

### Ask Our Rabbis

Q. Why do we still keep two days of Yomtov outside of Israel?

A. Throughout the Torah, each holiday, or Yom Tov, is listed as being one day. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Pesach is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the Jewish month of Nissan (Bamidbar 28:16-19), not as the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> as we observe in the Diaspora. There are a number of perspectives as to how the Diaspora came to observe 2 days for each Yom Tov.

Initially, the Sanhedrin, the Jewish High Court, would set the calendar each month based on witness testimony to their sighting of the new moon, which would establish the beginning of that Jewish month. As a result of when the month began, the Yom Tov of that month in question would fall into place. (This process is described in more detail throughout Masseches Rosh Hashanah). This declaration was transmitted via a signal system from Jerusalem to the Diaspora. Over time, this process became corrupted by the Samaritans, and Chazal enacted that the Diaspora should keep 2 days for each Yom Tov so that they would not come to desecrate the Yom Tov inadvertently. Chazal tell us that once the Jewish community began to keep 2 days of Yom Tov, the practice became cemented into Jewish Practice (Betizah 4b).

The Medrash (Shir Hashirim Rabbah 1:6) has a slightly different perspective. It states that keeping 2 days of Yom Tov is part of the penalty of exile: since we did not properly keep the one day of Yom Tov in the Land of Israel, we now have to keep two in exile. The implication is that the proper observance of the Jewish Holidays, with the cessation of creative activity as by Shabbos, through performing the unique commandments of each respective Yom Tov, and by honoring the Yom Tov with a festive meal, we will be well on our way towards national redemption and serving Hashem properly in the Land of Israel, celebrating each Yom Tov in the Beis Hamikdash, the Temple in Jerusalem.

## ● 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](mailto:aviokin@nhbz.org).



## ● 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 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

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.

## ● 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\\_MFI0zsmKIlmpR3KpHROrHDWIDNbgsN](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI_MFI0zsmKIlmpR3KpHROrHDWIDNbgsN)

## ● 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-](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>

# NHBZ'S 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## Sunday, December 12, 2021



It takes a lot of work to put on an event like the 116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. We have many people to thank ...

### We thank our honorees

**Lenny & Fran Alper**, Guests of Honor  
**Alan Haber**, HaKaras HaTov Award recipient  
**Shaving Israel**, Israel Advocacy Award recipient  
Dr. Laura Goldmeier, President  
Irl Solomon accepting award for Shaving Israel

Thank  
You

### Anniversary Dinner Committee

**Sandie Abrams, Lenny & Fran Alper (co-chairs), Jesse Barash, Teree Farbstein, Marsha Feenberg, Rhonnie Goldfader, Dr. Eliot Katz, Robin Rickerman, Nancy Rush, Nancy Stenn, and Anna Rose Tendler** who worked as a team to create a very successful event.  
Plus our ad solicitor specialists: **Marcie Brook, Denny Feit, Sandie Greenberg, and Jay Umansky**

### We thank the program participants (in order of appearance)

- **Cary Alper** and **Mike Minoff** outstanding emcee duo
- **Cantor Murray Hochberg** for leading us in beautiful renditions of the national anthems
- **Jesse Barash** for his welcome back poem
- **Menachem Szus** for his welcome message
- **Howard Sandler** for leading HaMotzi and piano entertainment
- **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason** for his inspirational presentations introducing each honoree
- **Rhonnie Goldfader** for presenting the "Pearls of Wisdom" Silent Auction
- **Rachel Miller**, Founder of Shaving Israel, as surprise guest
- **Rabbi Avi Okin** for his motivating remarks and for leading Bircas HaMazon

### Special thanks to

**Robin Rickerman**, catering and venue  
**Bobby Levine**, invitation & journal cover design  
**Kenny Bressler**, set-up and consulting  
**Joni Kaiser**, Jewish Light submissions

**Dr. Eliot Katz**, event photography  
**Nancy Stenn**, administrative specialist  
**Hindy Anton**, event accounting  
**Allan Swan & Teretha Carter**, logistics

### We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the event sponsors

Gold Pillar – **Michelle Shower and Suzanne Shower Walch & Tony Walch**

Pillar – **Lenny & Fran Alper; Don & Julie Eisenberg**

Sustainer – **Zev & Arin Rosenberg**

Sponsor – **Caryn & Joanna Alper; Berger Memorial; Jesse & Debbie Barash; Stan & Rhonnie Goldfader; Alan & Janet Haber; Jewish Federation of St. Louis; Bob & Joni Kaiser; Mark Ragin & Gail Rose; Timekeepers; Mickey Ariel, Joel Garbow, & Stuart Zimbalist**

## Thanks to the early bird raffle prize donors

Stanley Steemer  
Sunshine Drapery & Interior Design  
Trader Joe's  
Clayton Plaza Hotel

Jesse & Debbie Barash  
Joanna Alper  
Anna Rose Tendler

Thank you to everyone who sent in RSVPs and Ads before the  
November 12 *Early Bird* deadline ...

## ... and Congratulations to the Winners of the Early Bird Raffle:

**Stuart Klamen** – Stanley Steemer gift certificate  
**Shaul Ganel** – Hydro Flask lunch box & food jar  
**Aaron & Nancy Novack** – Sunshine Drapery and Design gift certificate  
**Howard & Phyllis Loiterstein** – Original 7 qt. Crock Pot  
**Stuart & Betsy Zimbalist** – Trader Joe's gift basket  
**Tony Granillo** – 2 tickets to the Fabulous Fox Theatre  
**Bob & Joni Kaiser** – One night stay at the Clayton Plaza Hotel

Thank you to *Michael Genovese Jewelers*, and to all those who  
participated in our *'Pearls of Wisdom'* Jewelry Auction ...

## ... and Congratulations to the Top Bidders:

**Arin & Zev Rosenberg** – Pearl Necklace and Pearl Bracelet  
**Dr. Faye Cohen & Brian McCary** – Diamond and Gold Ring

And, finally, the Committee and the Board of Directors thank everyone  
who attended the *116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration* and all those who  
purchased Tribute Ads in the Commemorative Ad Journal.





# THE SISTERHOOD SCOOP

## DECEMBER 18

Volume 4

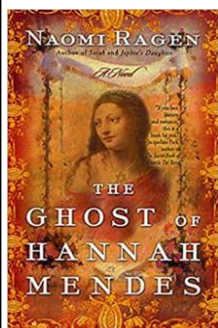
Number 48

14 Tevet 5782

December 18, 2021

### 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](mailto:terrischnitzer@yahoo.com)



### Vayechi (Genesis 47:28-50:26)

#### The Blessing of Fulfilling One's Potential

– by **Rabbi Dr. Abraham Twerski**, [aish.com](http://aish.com)

*Jacob called for his sons and said, “Assemble yourselves ... Gather yourselves and listen, O sons of Jacob, and listen to Israel your father” (49:1-2) This is what their father spoke to them and he blessed them, each according to his appropriate blessing (49:28)*

The Talmud says that the only vessel that can contain blessings is shalom (peace). Prior to giving them his blessings, Jacob twice indicated the importance of togetherness: assemble and gather. Fragmentation and divisiveness can undo even the greatest blessings.

It is significant that in blessing them, Jacob referred to both his names, Jacob and Israel. He was named Jacob (Yaakov) because when he was born he held onto the heel (ekev) of Esau. The name, Jacob, thus represents the person at birth, the genetic endowments and the potential. The name, Israel, was given to him after he wrestled with an angel and triumphed; Israel meaning, “You have striven with the Divine and with man and have overcome” (Genesis 32:29). Israel, therefore, represents Jacob's achievements, his ability to be master over both human and superhuman forces.

It is of interest that we do not find manifest blessings in Jacob's words. He seems, rather, to be describing the character traits of each of his sons. The Torah tells us that indeed, “He blessed them, each according to his appropriate blessing.”

Jacob knew his children. He instructed them to each fulfill his unique potential, maximizing the particular talents, skills and character strengths with which he was created. This is the greatest blessing of all. Jacob did not bless them with wealth or other external acquisitions. The latter may not be a blessing at all. The true blessing is for a person to become everything that he can be.

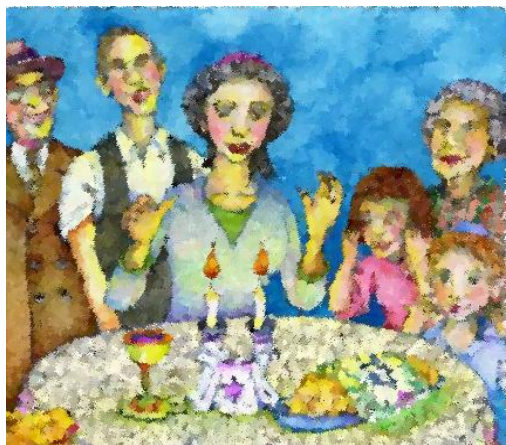
This is an important teaching for parents. Sometimes parents set their minds on what they would like their child to be, not taking into consideration the child's interests and abilities. All parents want the best for their child. However, they may think they know what is best for the child, whereas what they really desire is that the child fulfill their aspirations for him. The patriarch teaches us that we must get to know our children and help them develop and realize their own unique potential.

In these few words, Jacob conveyed the essence of blessings: brotherhood, working at achievement (Israel) and developing one's innate endowment to its fullest (Jacob).

### Family

The home should be perceived as a microcosm of the universe:

The harmony that permeates the home and the family extends beyond, fostering harmony between families, communities and ultimately, the nations of the world. In the absence of harmony between one's own family, we can hardly expect to find harmony between strangers.







# CHILLZONE

— 2021 - 2022 —

[chillzone.org](http://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](mailto:chillzone@thezone.org)

**Rabbi Avi Okin: 862-438-4094**

NHBZ  
650 N Price Rd  
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