



NHBZ Weekly News

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

December 25, 2021 • 21 Teves 5782 • Candle Lighting 4:27pm • Shabbos Concludes 5:30pm

Parshas Shemos
Haftorah

Exodus 1:1 – 6:1
Isaiah 27:6 – 28:13; 29:22 – 23

Stone Chumash pp. 268 – 289
Stone Chumash pp. 1146 – 1148

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 Kiddush

- Craig and Marsha Feenberg want members to know: "Marsha has been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer (amyloidosis) which is treatable, though not curable. Her spirits and positive attitude have been a vital key in enabling her to cope with this condition. We thank everyone for their prayers and we honestly believe that they have gotten us this far. Love to all, Craig and Marsha"
- The Feigenbaum/Pepose family "In appreciation for the warmth with which the NHBZ community embraced our sister Pam during her life in St. Louis and the kindnesses shown us upon her passing."
- The Rubin family "In honor of Bob Kaiser being named to this year's list of Super Lawyers"
- Alan & Vivian Zarkowsky provide cookies in honor of their new granddaughter, Emma Marian

Prayer

Shabbos, Friday, December 24

- 4:20 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv
- 4:27 pm Candle Lighting

Shabbos, Saturday, December 25

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf
Pesukei D'Zimra: **Howard Sandler** Haftorah: **Stuart Klamen**
Shacharis: **Rabbi Avi Okin** Sermon: **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason**
Leyning: **Stuart Klamen** Musaf: **Rabbi Avi Okin**
- 4:15 pm Mincha, Shalosh Seudos, Ma'ariv
- 5:30 pm Shabbos concludes



Minyan Times December 16 – December 25, 2021

	Thu Dec 23	Fri Dec 24	Shabbos Dec 25	Sun Dec 26	Mon Dec 27	Tues Dec 28	Wed Dec 29	Thu Dec 30	Fri Dec 31	Shabbos Jan 1
Shachris (am)	7:00	8:00	9:00	8:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	8:00	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	--	4:20	4:15	4:25	4:25	--	--	--	4:25	4:20
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: 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!

Congregation News

Mazel Tov on Simchas This Week! December 26 – January 1

Happy Birthday

Richard Goldstein	December 26
Louis Goldman	December 31
Eli Szus	December 31

Happy Anniversary

Howard & Phyllis Loiterstein	December 26
Craig & Jackie Berkin	December 27
Eldad & Danielle Bialecki	December 31

We ♥ Our Medical Advisors

Please join us for Kiddush lunch on 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.



Siyum of Celebration

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Siyum is postponed until further notice. Please stay tuned for the rescheduled date.

Events

Coming Soon

- Shabbos morning, January 8
- Kiddush lunch in honor of NHBZ's Medical Advisory Team. Please plan to join us.

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 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 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.

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.

Sefer Torah Restoration

Did you know that we have a treasure? NHBZ is the proud custodian of a Sefer Torah (Torah Scroll), estimated to be approximately 200 years old! This Sefer Torah is unique not only because of its age, but also because it was written in *Ksav Ha'Ari* (as in Nusach Hari!).

The great kabbalist Rabbi Yitzchak Luria (the "Ari") promoted a script that is called *Ksav Ha'Ari*. Most Chasidic and kabbalistically-oriented Jewish communities use Sifrei Torah written in the *Ksav Ha'Ari* style. We at Nusach Hari B'Nai Zion Congregation also cherish our 'Ari Torah' because of our synagogue's proud connection to the great Rabbi Yitzchak Luria.



We recently learned of some necessary repairs to restore this family heirloom to Kosher status. Moreso than other Sifrei Torah, this Sefer Torah is important to restore because it is *our* history. For those of you whose parents and grandparents (and great-grandparents!) worshipped here, they davened using this Torah.

We are well on our way to raising the \$4000 needed for this important project. This is the perfect opportunity to get that year-end deduction from the IRS while preserving our family history. Call the office with your contribution today!

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!!!! – 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**, and then at 10 minute intervals, scheduled as 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 Shemos – By Rabbi Smason

The book of Exodus begins by describing the gradually increasing enslavement of the Jewish people in Egypt. Pharaoh, fearing the population explosion of the Jews, initially hopes that backbreaking labor would stunt their rapid physical growth. When their birth rate continues to increase he orders the Jewish midwives to kill all baby boys. Moses is born, and when his mother is unable to keep him hidden from the Egyptian authorities any longer she places him in a basket and sends him down the Nile River. He is found by Pharaoh's daughter and raised in the royal palace, even though she realizes he is a Hebrew. She names him Moshe (Moses) meaning "drawn from the water." Years later as a grown man, Moses kills an Egyptian who he witnessed beating a Jew.

Moses flees to the land of Midian and marries Zipporah, the daughter of Jethro, and they have two sons. When Moses is shepherding his father-in-law's flock, he witnesses the "burning bush" on Chorev (Mt. Sinai) where G-d commands him to lead the Jewish people from Egypt to the land of Israel, which G-d promised to their ancestors. Initially reluctant, Moses is shown three miracles to perform before the Jewish people to prove he was sent by G-d: Changing his staff into a snake, his healthy hand into a leprous one, and water into blood. Moses, accompanied by his brother Aaron, encounters an obstinate Pharaoh. The Egyptian king not only refuses their request for a three-day respite to worship G-d, but declares that the Jews must produce the same quota of bricks as before but without being given straw. The people complain to Moses and Aaron for making their situation worse, but G-d assures Moses that He will force Pharaoh to let the Hebrews leave.

Ask Our Rabbis

Q. Why does the siddur (prayer book) contain so many blessings for us to say?

A: What a wonderful question! Many believe that the essence of prayer is to ask for those things we believe we need. While it's certainly true that HaShem wants us to ask Him to fulfill our needs, a strong case can be made that the central emphasis of Jewish prayer is to express gratitude for those blessings we already have.

Upon reflection, each of us has a very long list of both material and non-material gifts for which we can and should thank the Almighty. It's so easy to take for granted the multitude of blessings in our life. Many or most of us are blessed with the following: We can walk, talk, see, hear and speak. And for the most part, we have fully functioning bodies with an incredibly complex circulatory system and multiple organs that do the job they're supposed to do.

We live in homes with heat, air conditioning and indoor plumbing. With the simple turn of a knob we have hot and cold water at our disposal, and with the flick of a switch we have light. We have refrigerators and cabinets stocked with food, and closets and drawers filled with clothing.

More significantly, we have people in our lives who we love, and many who love us. And of course as Jews, we're blessed to be part of HaShem's Chosen Nation, and we have the supreme privilege and responsibility of serving Him, and fulfilling our mission to be a Light Unto the Nations.

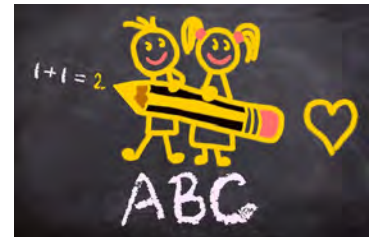
We have so much to be thankful for. Therefore, to help us focus on the many blessings in our life and to develop a deeper 'attitude of gratitude', Jewish prayer provides us with an opportunity to daily thank HaShem for at least some of those blessings.

● **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 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.

● **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>



Do you shop on Amazon? Signup for Amazon Smile, and .5% of your qualified purchase will be donated back to NHBZ

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"
3. Select "Nusach Hari-Bnai Zion Congregation"

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

DECEMBER 25

Volume 4

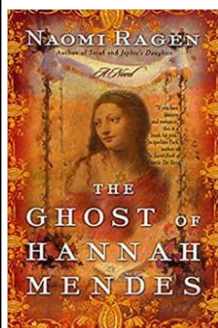
Number 49

21 Tevet 5782

December 25, 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



Women as Leaders Shemot (Exodus 1:1-6:1)

Excerpted from – by **Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks**, aish.com

On the surface, the parsha of Shemot is about the initiation into leadership of one remarkable man, but just beneath the surface is a counter-narrative of six extraordinary women without whom there would not have been a Moses. They belong to a long tradition of strong women throughout Jewish history, from Deborah, Hannah, Ruth and Esther in the Bible to more modern religious figures like Sarah Schenirer and Nechama Leibowitz to more secular figures like Anne Frank, Hannah Senesh and Golda Meir.

How then, if women emerge so powerfully as leaders, were they excluded in Jewish law from certain leadership roles? If we look carefully we will see that women were historically excluded from two areas. One was the “crown of priesthood”, which went to Aaron and his sons. The other was the “crown of kingship”, which went to David and his sons. These were two roles built on the principle of dynastic succession. From the third crown – the “crown of Torah” – however, women were not excluded. There were Prophetesses, not just Prophets. The Sages enumerated seven of them ([Megillah 14a](#)). There have been great women Torah scholars always, from the Mishnaic period (Beruriah, Ima Shalom) until today.

At stake is a more general distinction. Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron in his Responsa, *Binyan Av*, differentiates between formal or official authority (*samchut*) and actual leadership (*hanhagah*). There are figures who hold positions of authority – prime ministers, presidents, CEOs – who may not be leaders at all. They may have the power to force people to do what they say, but they have no followers. They excite no admiration. They inspire no emulation. And there may be leaders who hold no official position at all but who are turned to for advice and are held up as role models. They have no power but great influence. Israel's Prophets belonged to this category. So, often, did the *gedolei Yisrael*, the great Sages of each generation. Neither Rashi nor Rambam held any official position (some scholars say that Rambam was chief rabbi of Egypt but most hold that he was not, though his descendants were). Wherever leadership depends on personal qualities – what Max Weber called “charismatic authority” – and not on office or title, there is no distinction between women and men.

Yocheved, Miriam, Shifra, Puah, Tziporah and Batya were leaders not because of any official position they held (in the case of Batya she was a leader *despite* her official title as a princess of Egypt). They were leaders because they had courage and conscience. They refused to be intimidated by power or defeated by circumstance. They were the real heroes of the Exodus. Their courage is still a source of inspiration today.



Drowning in Egypt

Pharaoh gave orders to all his people: “You must cast every boy who is born into the Nile, but you must let every girl live.” [Exodus 1:22](#)

By instructing his people to “let every girl live,” Pharaoh meant that the Jewish girls should be raised as Egyptians. He thus decreed that the boys be killed physically and the girls be killed spiritually. The decree to throw the boys into the Nile also alludes to immersing the Jews in Egyptian culture, for the Egyptians worshipped the Nile as the source of their livelihood and culture.

Egypt is the prototype of all exiles. In all exiles, the ruling culture urges us to raise our children in its ways, promising that this is the path to attain material and social success. As in Egypt, resisting these promises and ensuring that our children grow up cherishing the Torah's values is what will guarantee their material, social, and spiritual happiness, as well as their freedom from the bonds of exile.

Translated & Adapted by *Moshe Wisnefsky* at Chabad.org



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
order your pizza and arrange a pickup time -- first
pickup starting at 7:30pm and then scheduled as
first-come-first-served. All orders must pre-pay.

You may 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

