



NHBZ Weekly News

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

February 26, 2022 • 25 Adar I, 5782 • Candle Lighting 5:32 pm • Shabbos Concludes 6:36pm

Parshas Vayakhel

Maftir: Parshas Shekalim

Haftorah

Exodus 35:1 – 38:20

Exodus 30:11 – 16

2 Kings 11:17 – 12:17

Chumash pp. 516 – 529

Chumash p. 484

Chumash pp. 1212 – 1214

Shalosh Seudos is sponsored by Fran Alper in memory of her beloved mother *Edythe Gordon Ferman^{Z"l}*, on the occasion of her yahrzeit.

Prayer

Shabbos, Friday, February 25

- 5:25 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv
- 5:32 pm Candle Lighting



Shabbos, Saturday, February 26

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf
Pesukei D'Zimra: **Menachem Szus**
Shacharis: **Rabbi Avi Okin**
Leyning: **Stuart Klamen**
Haftorah: **Reuven Tzadok**
Sermon: **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason**
Musaf: **Rabbi Avi Okin**
- 10:00 am Kids' Program (downstairs)
- 10:15 am "Starting Points" with Rabbi Ze'ev Smason (downstairs)
- 5:15 pm Mincha, Shalosh Seudos, D'var Torah by **Rabbi Avi Okin**, Ma'ariv
- 6:36 pm Shabbos concludes

Minyan Times February 24 – March 5, 2022

	Thu Feb 24	Fri Feb 25	Shabbos Feb 26	Sun Feb 27	Mon Feb 28	Tues Mar 1	Wed Mar 2	Thu Mar 3*	Fri Mar 4*	Shabbos Mar 5
Shachris (am)	7:00	7:00	9:00	8:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	6:45	6:45	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	--	5:25	5:15	5:35	5:35	--	--	--	5:35	5:25
Ma'ariv Only (pm)	6:45	--	--	--	--	6:45	6:45	6:45	--	--

* Rosh Chodesh Adar 2

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

Please check in with Rabbi Smason or Howard Sandler and commit to a time to help. Text message reminders for your minyan attendance are available. Please provide 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! February 27 – March 5, 2022

Happy Birthday

David Pepose	February 27	Devy Goldenberg	March 4
Hal Rosen	March 1	Shirley Bluestein	March 5



Events

Coming Soon

- Clean Speech STL, March
- Thursday night, March 17
- Community Initiative (See Page 6)
- Purim Seudah

On-Going

- Online Classes
- Every Shabbos
- Saturday Nights, 7:30 pm
- Sunday mornings, after Shachris
- Mondays, 8:00 pm
- Wednesdays, 12:15 pm
- Thursdays, 7:00 pm
- See listing on Page 8
- Learners' Service with Rabbi David, 9:15 am
- Shabbos Morning Kids' Program, 10:00 am (downstairs)
- Starting Points with Rabbi Smason, 10:15 am (downstairs)
- "Bitachon: Relying on G-d to Get Through Tough Times", with Rabbi Okin at Shalosh Seudos
- ChillZone with Rabbi Okin
- Mishna learning with Rabbi Swidler
- St. Louis Kollel Amud-A-Week
- Pirkei Avos Class with Rabbi Smason
- Mishmar Learning with Rabbi Okin

GLOW OF SUCCESS – ChillZone Carnival (See pictures, next page)

A GREAT time was had by all! A HUGE thank you to **Rabbi Okin** and **Lenny Alper** for setting up, organizing, and making things run smoothly, and to all the volunteers: **Kenny Bressler, Bryson & Jennifer Hartranft, Bob & Joni Kaiser, Nancy Belau-Rush, Anna Rose & Victor Tendler**, and **Alan & Vivian Zarkowsky**; and our fabulous pizza crew, **Allan Swan & Teretha Carter**.

And the Game Winners are:

Paper Airplane Toss	Max Shalowitz
Pin the Tail on the Camel	Michelle Wallman
Jelly Bean Guess	Max Shalowitz
Memory Game	Joseph Baker

The Big Prize Winners:

Drone	Max Shalowitz
Model Plane	David Morgensztern
String Bag	Nicole Levay



Hamantaschen Tasting Raffle – A little nosh for a good cause

Congratulations to RACHAEL PEVNICK, our raffle winner, and our runner up (Surprise!!) is DEBBIE BARASH!

Thanks to everyone who played! Keep watching the Weekly News! You never know what fun things might show up next!



NHBZ needs YOU!

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!

If you see an event listed in the Weekly News, we need volunteers!
Please contact the office (314-991-2100, ext 2, or email office@nhbz.org)
with your availability and how you would like to contribute.

This is OUR community. This is OUR shul. These are OUR responsibilities and privileges. Coming together, in good times and hard ones, is the blessing of community. Share your heart and hands with us. Volunteer today.

NHBZ Updated COVID Policy

Dear Members and Friends,

With thanks to HaShem we continue to see a decrease of Covid-related serious illness and death in our area. Therefore, in consultation with our shul's medical and health advisors, it is now possible to remove restrictions that promoted social distancing during synagogue food events. Specifically, we no longer require the use of single-serve food portions. It is also no longer necessary to have all food placed on individual dining tables.

Though individuals may remove their masks while seated at a table and while eating, we continue to require that **anyone approaching a serving table or buffet line be masked**. And of course, all those handling and serving food will be masked and gloved.

Mandatory masking at all times will continue to be required other than while eating, leading davening, or delivering a class or presentation. Given current health trends in the area, I am optimistic that we will be able to consider 'masking-optional' at NHBZ in the near future.

We continue to require anyone attending an NHBZ indoor program or prayer service to show or to have shown proof of vaccination.

If you have any questions regarding our shul's Covid policy, please feel free to reach out to me.

With blessings for good health,

Rabbi Ze'ev Smason

PURIM IS COMING !!!

Purim commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in Ancient Persia from Haman's plot to kill all Jews in a single day. Set in Persia 2,300 years ago, the "Megillah" tells how a seemingly unrelated series of events spun together to save the Jewish people from annihilation. Purim is Judaism's most dramatic, fun-filled holiday. Here are the mitzvot and customs of Purim at NHBZ:

1. Read the Book of Esther - Mitzvah of Mikra Megillah

It is a Mitzvah to hear the Megillah read twice. Bring your kids and family!

Wednesday, March 16	Thursday, March 17
6:35 pm Mincha	6:30 am Shacharis
7:55 pm Ma'ariv	7:00 am Megillah Reading
8:05 pm Megillah Reading	

2. Give Charity to the Poor - Mitzvah of Matanot l'Evyonim

Od Yosef Chai - For several years, NHBZ has collected money for Od Yosef Chai, an organization that distributes money to the poor in Israel. Make checks payable to Rabbi's Charity Fund and bring or send them to our office. To donate by credit card, please call 314-991-2100, ext. 2. The deadline for contributions is Monday, March 14th.

3. Send Gifts to Friends - Mitzvah of Mishloach Manot

Fulfill the mitzvah of Mishloach Manos! Give actual gifts of food to at least two friends... then send our **PURIM CARDS** to everyone else!! All proceeds will benefit our NHBZ Chesed Fund. Cards may be purchased through our office for \$12.50 per pack of 5 cards with envelopes.

4. Fast of Esther

To commemorate the day of prayer and fasting that the Jews held in the Book of Esther, we fast on the day before Purim, Wednesday, March 16th beginning at 6:00 a.m. and concluding at 7:51 p.m.

5. Eat a festive Purim meal - Mitzvah of Seudah Purim

Thursday night, March 17th

6:00 pm – Mincha

6:15 SHARP - Purim Seudah, Hi-Jinks, and FUN for all!!!

Dinner, Whiskey Slush, PLUS Hamantaschen!!!

Ma'ariv following Seudah

RSVPs REQUIRED FOR DINNER – Limited Seating
See Flyer for Complete Details
SPONSORS REQUESTED ~ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A Message from Rabbi Smason – Purim!

With the festive holiday of Purim fast approaching, I'm writing to remind you of the time-sensitive mitzvah of *Matanos L'Evyonim* -- tzedaka (charity) to the poor. For many years, we at NHBZ have collected *Matanos L'Evyonim* in conjunction with the worthy organization *Od Yosef Chai*. Our special arrangement with Od Yosef enables me to distribute locally half of all money collected. The remaining half supports our Jewish brethren in Jerusalem and elsewhere. All money pledged and collected for Matanos L'Evyonim is distributed on Purim. This year, Purim takes place on March 16 and 17, so please make your contribution on or before Monday, March 14.

Your donation of \$10, \$18, \$36, \$54, \$100 - or whatever amount you care to give-- will make a significant difference to those in need and enable you to fulfill the precious Purim mitzvah of Matanos L'Evyonim. Checks can be made out to 'Rabbis Charity Fund'

Youth Programming

● **Shabbos Morning Kids' Program**, Rabbi Okin

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 kids 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.)

In the Community

Clean Speech St. Louis A month-long Initiative

Have you ever envisioned a community where we use words to build each other up rather than tear each other down? What would our community look like if everyone had your back and you had theirs?

Clean Speech St. Louis is a city-wide initiative with over 30 Participating Organizations. This 30-day social media mindfulness challenge aims to unite us through the ancient Jewish teachings of Lashon Hara (gossip and slander) which you'll learn is a lot more than just speech. Watch our daily lessons by signing up today at www.cleanspeechstl.com, you can also find us on Facebook, Instagram or YouTube by searching for @CSSTL or Clean Speech St Louis.

Get involved, join the conversation and pick up your free inspirational and educational materials and swag directly from your affiliated Temple, synagogue or organization! Don't worry, we have lots to keep the kids busy too.

Learning at NHBZ

● Parashas Vayakhel – By Rabbi Smason

Vayakhel begins with Moses assembling the entire nation of Israel to transmit the details of the construction and fabrication of the Mishkan as described in the three previous Torah portions. However, Moses first cautions them about the fundamental mitzvah to observe Shabbat. The nation is reminded that although the construction of the Mishkan is of transcendent importance, it does not take precedence over the weekly observance of Shabbat. The portion describes that the Jewish people came forward with their generous contributions for the Mishkan's construction, producing a surplus of supplies. The craftsmen are selected and the building begins.

● Parashas Shekalim

The first of the Four Special Shabbatot at this time of year is Parshas Shekalim. The special maftir reading discusses the census that would happen at this time of year in Temple times. Each person would give one half-shekel. The money would be counted, and that would determine the census. And the Torah makes it very clear that "the poor person shall not give less, and the rich person shall not give more."

Ask Our Rabbis

Q. Why is it that Purim is the only Jewish holiday with a Mitzvah to give gifts to the poor?

A. The Mitzvah referenced in the question is known as Matanos L'evyonim, and involves giving at least one food gift or its financial equivalent to two poor people (Shulchan Aruch OC 694:1 based on Megillah 7a). The source for this Mitzvah is Megillah 9:22 "U'matatnos L'evyonim- and gifts to the poor."

However, it is inaccurate to suggest that Purim is the only holiday with a Mitzvah to support the poor. In fact, a major but underemphasized aspect of Pesach is Ma'os Chittim, which literally means "wheat money." This is charity given so that the poor will be able to have Matzah on Pesach, along with their other Yom Tov needs (Mishnah Berurah 429:1).

● 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 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:

- February 26 Rethinking Stress: Can You Find the Upside of Pressure?
- March 5 **No Class**
- March 12 Purim & Joy: Finding Rules for a Happy Life
- March 19 Are People Born Nice or Nasty?
- March 26 The Best Ways to Deal with Disappointment and Failure

Learning at NHBZ (con't)



- **Rabbi Smason's Wednesday In-Person Class**

Same place and time, same health and safety protocols.

- **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_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>



THE SISTERHOOD SCOOP

Be Happy, it's Adar!

FEBRUARY 26



Volume 5

Number 9

25 Adar I 5782

February 26, 2022

PURIM IS COMING! PURIM IS COMING! PURIM IS COMING! PURIM IS COMING! PURIM IS COMING!

Join Sisterhood at NHBZ's Purim Seudah – Costume Contest & Schtick Nite – Thursday, March 17, at 6:15 PM

VAYAKHEL: How to Educate Successfully

After Moses told the people what was needed in order to construct the Tabernacle, the people started bringing their contributions.

The medieval Biblical scholar Rabbi Avraham Ibn Ezra translates [the list of contributed items], as “earrings, nose-rings, finger-rings, and bracelets.” **The four items that the women donated allude to the four aspects of proper child-rearing and Jewish education:**

Earrings: Listening carefully to children's conversations with their peers, for children learn how to talk from their elders' example; if something is amiss in how they speak, it means something is amiss in how their role models speak.

Nose-rings: Developing a keen sense of “smell” to determine if children's friendships with other children are beneficial.

Finger-rings: Pointing children to the proper path, by gently guiding them to adhere to the Torah's teachings and not to follow harmful paths.

Bracelets: Being strong-armed – for even if children are well-behaved, it is necessary to be firm with them in order to foster their enthusiasm for their studies.

—from the Lubavitcher Rebbe;

Adapted by Moshe Wisniefsky, www.chabad.org

Sisterhood Needs YOU in 2022!

Help us continue our MISSION ...to bring together the women of NHBZ, and other interested women, to serve and inspire our congregation, to support our community, and to enrich our lives through personal and spiritual growth in Torah values. Our activities further our commitment to Torah ideals, Jewish education, Zionism, and family.

We look forward to hearing **your** ideas and encourage you to join us!

Don't forget to send your \$25 check for dues for 2022 – payable to NHBZ (write ‘Sisterhood’ in the memo line) or call the office to pay by phone, 314-991-2100, ext. 3. **For info or questions, email:** sisterhood@nhbz.org or call Teree Farbstein at 314-753-5035 or tfarbstein2@gmail.com or Fran Alper at 314-993-4024 or fran.alper@outlook.com

The 4-Steps of Preparation Before Purim & Pesach

This week we begin a four-step regimen of self-improvement – four Shabbatot when we read a special section from the Torah – in anticipation of the spiritual redemptions we will hopefully experience this Purim and Passover. The four steps are found in the next four special Torah readings:

Shekalim: about the mitzvah to annually donate a half-shekel to the Temple coffers.

Zachor: about our obligation to annihilate the evil nation of Amalek.

Parah: about the ritual purification from the sprinkling of the ashes of the red heifer.

Hachodesh: about the mitzvah of sanctifying the new moon, and the requirement to eat matzah and bitter herbs at the Passover Seder.

Parshat Shekalim focuses on the first necessary step to achieve personal redemption—**charity**. Why does the process of personal redemption start with helping others?

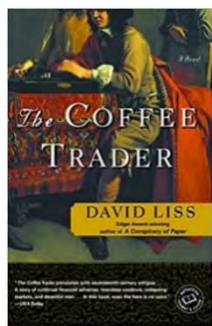
A question often asked of a person is, “What do you do?” It does not refer to the person's hobbies, vacations, or charity work; rather, it is designed to find out how the person makes a living; what a person *does*. A person goes to work every day to make an income and becomes immersed and absorbed in the pursuit of making a living. This is why the paycheck is so precious. When we choose to give away a portion to charity, we are choosing to give to G-d of our very essence, and thus we bring meaning and significance into our entire workweek.

Our sages strongly extol the virtue of charity, going so far as to say that it is “equal to all other mitzvot combined!” Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi explains that whereas every mitzvah is designed to introduce holiness into a specific part of our being—the particular limb which performs the mitzvah—charity is the one exception to this rule. The few coins which one puts into a charity box, or the check one writes to a charitable organization, have the ability to sanctify one's entire being.

In this aspect, monetary charity is much greater than volunteering time to a charitable cause. Volunteering involves donating a certain amount of time to G-d, one's fellow man, or both. When the hour or two conclude, one returns to a normal, self-absorbed daily schedule, and the kindness is now part of the past. Charity, however, elevates the entire labor which netted the earnings, and the entire individual who toiled—physically and mentally—for this livelihood. —adapted from Rabbi Naftali Silberberg, www.chabad.org

Book Club News

The next meeting of the Book Club will be **Mon., March 28, 7:15-8:45 PM**, at the home of Devy Goldenberg. The book is “*The Coffee Trader*,” by David Liss – a compelling novel about capitalism, greed, morality, intrigue, the Jewish community, and a new commodity called “coffee”, in 17th century Amsterdam.



The Book Club will meet on the **fourth Monday of odd-numbered months, 7:15-8:45 PM**.

Make a note of the remaining dates for **2022: March 28, May 23, July 25, Sept. 19, Nov. 28**.

For more information, or to join the Book Club contact **Fran Alper at 314-993-4024** or email fran.alper@outlook.com



Join Us For Purim! 2022 5782

FAST OF ESTHER:

Wednesday, March 16

Fast begins: 6:00 AM

Fast ends: 7:51 PM

Wednesday March 16th

Mincha 6:35 pm | Ma'ariv at 7:55 pm

Reading of

Megillas Esther at 8:05 pm



Thursday March 17th

Megillas Esther at approx. 7:00 am.

Mincha at 6:00 pm followed at 6:15 by

SEUDAH

Costume Contest & Schtick Nite

Featuring:

A Delicious & Festive Meal prepared especially for you by our chefs and crew. **followed by Ma'ariv**
The Festivities would not be complete without our famous costume contests! So Dress Up as your favorite Purim character or ... others. And don't forget to Get your 'schtick' together. **Costume Contest:** Competition in 3 categories – Children, Adults, Couples/Family **Schtick:** Skits, Games, Poems, Jokes, Musical Entertainment, Etc. 3-5 minutes max. Enter with the title of 'Your Schtick' to Office@nhbz.org.

LIMITED SEATING, ACT FAST! RSVP's REQUIRED, NO WALK-INS

"Early Bird" Pricing through noon on March 8th:

\$18 - Adults (12 and over); \$15 - Kids (4-11); Kids 3 and under - Free; Family cap: \$62

AFTER Noon on March 8th: \$25 - Adults; \$18 - Kids (4-11); Family cap: \$87

RSVP BY MARCH 12TH 991-2100 EXT: 2

**Covid protocols in place and proof of vaccination for those 12 and older.
Masks required of all attendees, age 3 and older.**



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