



NHBZ Weekly News

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

July 1, 2023 • 12 Tamuz 5783 • Candle Lighting 8:11 pm • Shabbos Concludes 9:15 pm

Parshas Chukas – Balak
Haftorah Balak

Numbers 19:1 – 25:9
Micah 5:6 – 6:8

Chumash pp. 838 – 875
Chumash pp. 1189 – 1190

Thanks to our generous sponsors this Shabbos

Kiddush is sponsored by **The Alper Family** in celebration of the birthdays of **Joanna, Fran and Caryn Alper**. Mazel Tov!

Prayer

Shabbos, Friday, June 30

- 6:30 pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat, Ma'ariv
- 8:11 pm Candle Lighting

Shabbos, Saturday, July 1

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf
Pesukei D'Zimra: **TBA**
Shacharis: **Mateo John**
Leyning: **Rabbi Yitzchok Shimon Hess**
- 10:00 – 11:30 am Youth Program (downstairs)
- 10:00 – 10:45 am "Soul Building" with Rabbi Yosef David (downstairs in the Chapel)
Today's Topic: "Serving G-d Like a Slave or Like a Free Person — What's Preferable?"
- 7:20 pm *Shiur* from **Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**
- 7:50 pm Mincha, Shalosh Seudos, Ma'ariv
- 9:15 pm Shabbos concludes

Haftorah: **Alan Haber**
Sermon: **Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**
Musaf: **Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**



Minyan Times June 23 – July 1, 2023

	Fri Jun 30	Shabbos Jul 1	Sun Jul 2	Mon Jul 3	Tues Jul 4	Wed Jul 5	Thu Jul 6*	Fri Jul 7	Shabbos Jul 8
Shachris (am)	7:00	9:00	8:00	7:00	8:00	7:00	6:45	7:00	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	6:30	7:50	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	6:30	7:50

*Fast of Tamuz
Fast Begins 4:02 am, Ends 9:14 pm

Location of Classes

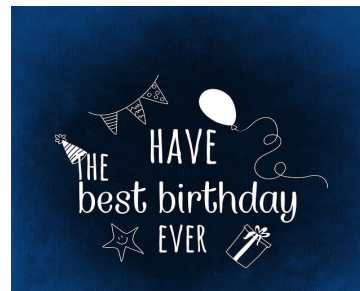
"Soul Building" with **Rabbi Yosef David** will meet in the Chapel (downstairs), while the Youth Program uses the Feigenbaum/Pepose Multipurpose Room.

The Rabbis' weekday classes will meet upstairs in the Social Area. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

Mazel Tov on Simchas This Week! July 1 – July 7, 2023

Happy Birthday

Vivian Zarkowsky	July 1	Judy Levin	July 4
Joanna Alper	July 2	Stuart Morgan	July 4
Frances Cohen	July 2	Caryn Alper	July 7
Jessica Fadem	July 2	Jerry Goldenberg	July 7
Melanie Sallis	July 2	Linda Shore	July 7
Fran Alper	July 4	Frieda Smason	July 7



Coming Events

- This Shabbos, July 1
 - Kiddush sponsored by **The Alper Family** in honor of the birthdays of Joanna, Fran and Caryn Alper
- Shabbos, July 8
 - 2023 Graduation Shabbos and Kiddush
- Shabbos, July 15
 - Kiddush lunch in honor of **Heidi Mufson**
- Shabbos, July 22, 9:00 am
 - Father/Son Teen Minyan (Chapel, downstairs)
- Shabbos, July 29
 - Kiddush lunch sponsored by **Sally Needle**
- Sunday, July 30, 12:00 pm
 - NHBZ Proud and Inspired 24 hour Online Fundraising Campaign
 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Father/Son Teen Minyan, Shabbos, July 22, 9:00 am



Fathers, sons, grandfathers, uncles and friends please join Rabbi Bogopulsky in the Chapel downstairs for this special minyan. Contact Rabbi Bogopulsky if you would like to lead davening. Kiddush to follow!

Project “Information Update” In Full Swing

We mailed members a printout of the information we have for members and their families. Thank you to those who have responded so quickly! If you (as a member) did not receive a letter, please contact the Office. Please make any corrections to the information, or confirm its accuracy, and return to the Office. [By the way: the database requires a year for every birthday. You are not required to provide your age. If we don't know your year of birth, it gets entered as “1900”.] Thank you for your time and effort in this very important project.

What's APP NHBZ?!



If you haven't already joined the NHBZ What's App Group, it's never too late! The best way to know the latest news, events and volunteering opportunities is through our What's App group chat. Be in the know.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/I93qZD69vU07X7k3iVLmKx>

2023 Graduation Shabbos, July 8, 2023



We are **CELEBRATING** accomplishments on July 8, 2023!

From nursery school to post-graduate degrees, we want to join in the celebration! Children, grandchildren, parents and friends – all graduations welcome!

We will publish the graduates (and their accomplishment) in the July 8 Weekly News. **Deadline for publication is Monday, July 3 at Noon.** Join us for sweet snacks at Kiddush as we say “Mazel Tov! Well done! Keep up the good work!”

Please fill out this [form](#), use the QR code or call the Office at 314.991.2100, ext. 2 with the information on your graduate.

Gateway to Tefilla: Making Davening Meaningful, Wednesdays, 7:00 pm

Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky will help us deepen our comprehension of our prayers, the meaning and significance of the words we say. With a better understanding, we get closer to HaShem. Mark your calendars to join us on this sacred journey. All levels of knowledge encouraged to attend. (Class will begin after Mincha/Ma'ariv at 6:30pm. Please make every effort to join the Minyan! And, stay for the class.)

The Body, Soul and the Afterlife with Rabbi Emeritus Ze'ev Smason

As you know, this very special series (generously hosted by **Don & Julie Eisenberg** in their home) is currently **SOLD OUT!** We are maintaining a first come, first served waitlist [here](#). Please join the waitlist, and you will be notified if seats open. Thank you for your eager participation!

NHBZ Proud and Inspired – An Online Fundraising Campaign, July 30 – 31, 2023

NHBZ is unique in serving the entire Jewish community, including both adults and kids whose connection to the Jewish people may be no more than their willingness to say “I am a Jew.” NHBZ caters to those who want to be “Proud and Inspired.”



Whether from its ever-expanding kids, youth and young family programming, Synaplex Shabbat, Starting Points or Soul Building classes, ardently and unapologetically pro-Israel events, inspirational speakers or the personal care and guidance offered by Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky and Rabbi Ze'ev Smason, each of us has our own “NHBZ story” to tell. That’s because NHBZ lives and breathes its mission: to inspire each member of the St. Louis Jewish community regardless of affiliation, level of observance, age or knowledge, to personally experience, explore, and share the beauty and wisdom of our Jewish heritage, and to support Israel.

NHBZ has a laser-like focus on making growth accessible and comfortable, in a welcoming, non-judgmental, and kid and family-oriented way. And while most of NHBZ’s programs and activities are purposefully either free or have a nominal charge they still have costs, and sometimes significant costs. Your financial support—or increased financial support—is **crucial to our shared mission**.

Mark your calendars and watch your mail and emails for details on how you can join the campaign!

NHBZ Rabbi Liaison Committee

Did you know that we have a Rabbi Liaison Committee? The purpose of this committee is to facilitate communication between our congregation and our Rabbi. Rabbi Bogopulsky is always available to our members, and direct communication is recommended and encouraged. We understand there may be issues you would like help discussing, or that you would prefer to remain confidential. Committee members **Joni Kaiser, Margo Tzadok, Dan Winograd and Janet Haber** are happy to hear your ideas, suggestions, compliments and constructive comments.

Learning at NHBZ

Parshas Chukas

Parshas Chukas opens with the classic illustration of a chok, a biblical imperative that defies all human logic and rationale - the *parah adumah*. This red heifer was slaughtered, reduced to ash, mixed with water, and used to purify those who came into contact with the dead and became ritually impure.

Ironically, while the impure person is purified, the person who purified him, by sprinkling the water upon him, becomes impure.

Not only is this law incomprehensible, but, as Rashi comments, we do not even have permission to seek an explanation, a rather peculiar notion, as it seems to contradict the Jewish approach requiring us to study and interpret. The Rabbinic statement that there are "seventy faces of Torah" implies a freedom, or perhaps an obligation, to probe and to understand. If we were created and blessed with the capacity to intellectualize and comprehend, should we not utilize these divine gifts that are ours?

What, then, is the function of a chok, and what role does it play in the panorama of Jewish observance? There is always the danger that in emphasizing the power of the intellect, one may be inclined to view comprehension as the determinant of observance – observing only what one understands. This approach is totally unacceptable. The authority of a mitzvah lies not in our understanding of it, but in its being stated in the Torah.

There [are] a number of safeguards incorporated in the Torah whose purpose is to protect the mitzvos and their observance. Jews believe in reward and punishment, for example. The Rambam lists this as a fundamental Jewish belief. Yet, with little exception, the Torah does not specify the reward for each mitzvah. This deliberate omission prevents us from using our intellect to try and determine which mitzvos are more important than others, a judgement which may impair our commitment to all the mitzvos equally.

The chok plays a similar role. Every mitzvah has a purpose that adds meaning to our lives. The rationale of the chok, however, is kept from us, demanding our unquestioned commitment, regardless of whether or not we understand it. The chok is a continuous reminder that the authority of the mitzvah and our obligation to observe it come from the word of G-d. When our ancestors were introduced to the Torah, their response was, "*Naaseh venishma*." *Naaseh*, first and foremost, we will accept and observe the Torah. Then *venishma*, we will commit ourselves to study and understand it.

Rabbi Jacob Reiner

Congregation Ohab Zedek, Belle Harbor, Queens, N.Y.

Parshas Balak

When it comes to prophecy, our Sages compare Bilam to Moshe Rabeinu: "Never again has there arisen in Israel a prophet like Moshe. But among the Babylonians one did arise. Who is this? Bilam, son of Ba'or."

Regarding character traits, however, our Sages compare Bilam with Avraham Aveinu: "A generous eye, a humble spirit and an undemanding soul, these are the characteristics of the disciples of Avraham; An evil eye, a haughty spirit and a demanding soul, these are the characteristics of the disciples of Bilam.

Where did our sages see evidence of Bilam's haughty spirit? Under which similar circumstances did Avraham Aveinu display a humble temperament? Rabbi Meir Bergman in his work, *Shaarei Orah*, points to a somewhat puzzling Gomorra: "Whoever establishes a set place for prayer, the G-d of Avraham will come to his aid, and when he dies they will say about him, 'What a humble man, what a pious man. He is a disciple of Avraham Aveinu.'" And from where do we know that Avraham Aveinu had a set place for prayer? From the verse, "And Avraham arose in the morning to the place that he had stood [prayed] earlier."

Certainly maintaining a set place for prayer is admirable, but why heap such effusive praise on its practitioner? We return to Bilam. Balak enlists him to curse the Jewish people. Bilam's initial attempt fails. His reaction? Let's try again from somewhere else. Round two: same result. Bilam's reaction? Let's try yet another location. Does Bilam really think that his failure is caused by a particular site being unworthy? Does it not dawn on him that perhaps it is his prayer that is lacking, or that he himself is inadequate? Arrogance, the Mishnah in *Aves* teaches, is the source of Bilam's blindness.

Not so Avraham Aveinu. After his valiant efforts to rescind G-d's decree to destroy Sodom did not bear fruit, Avraham Aveinu returns to pray. He returns to the very same spot where the previous prayer went unanswered. Perhaps the failure was mine, muses Avraham Aveinu. Did I pray with enough *kavannah*? Was there sufficient depth and meaning to my words? Humility, the Mishnah teaches, allows for serious introspection. Can I do better next time?

Kevi'as makom, establishing for oneself a place for prayer, refers to more than a physical seat in the synagogue. It represents a commitment to tefillah that states, "It is not the shul I attend or the spot I occupy that determines successful prayer. It is my ability to constantly dig deeper and sharpen my focus internally." Of such a person we can surely say, "What a humble man, what a pious man. He is a disciple of Avraham Aveinu."

Rabbi Aaron Gruman

Congregation Toras Emes in East Windsor, New Jersey

Trib-ute (trib'yoot)

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

Make a tribute to honor someone's simcha, 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 Weekly News.

On-Going Classes

- **Gemara Learning with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Weekdays, 6:15 am
- **St. Louis Kollel Amud-a-Week**, Mondays, 8:00 pm
- **“Journey through the Chumash” with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Tuesdays, 12:00 pm
Take an amazing journey of learning! Step by step, we will explore the Chumash.
- **Pirkei Avos / Ethics of the Fathers with Rabbi Ze’ev Smason**, Wednesdays, 12:15 pm
Feed your soul 45 minutes of spiritual nourishment from the timeless wisdom of our Sages, full of relevant, contemporary insights and lessons. Low-calorie, gluten free, and refreshing!
- **“Gateway to Tefilla” with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Wednesdays, 7:00 pm (After Mincha/Ma’ariv)
Deepen your understanding of the prayers we say.
- **Book of Kings with Rabbi Ze’ev Smason**, Monday-Thursday, 3:00 pm (On Zoom!)
An online class providing an exciting and informative look into the lives of Israel’s early kings and prophets. Thirty-minute sessions on Zoom. Join class via this link:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78974795850?pwd=tw7lOVumZ8QeIPxHvApYZsox8VUem.1>
- **Kitzur Shulchan Aruch with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Sunday-Thursday, 6:50 pm
Invest a few minutes (right before Ma’ariv!) to expand your understanding of Halacha/Jewish Law.
- **“Soul Building” Series with Rabbi Yosef David**, Every Shabbos, 10:00 am (downstairs)
- **Pre-Mincha Shiur with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Every Shabbos afternoon, before Mincha
- **Mishna Learning with Rabbi Chanan Swidler**, Every Sunday morning, after Shachris

New NHBZ Book Giving & Dedication Opportunity (Revised, June 2023)

Please help Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky build up our Shul library. The books listed below, unless otherwise indicated, are in English, allowing for independent study and learning. Giving to Nusach Hari B’nai Zion provides you with an opportunity to fulfill the important mitzvah of contributing tzedakah (charity). Dedication of books is a wonderful opportunity to honor a Simcha or to remember a loved one. Please consider donating one or more of the following:

Artscroll Chumash Mikraos Gedolos (Hebrew)

\$55 One volume
\$250 Five volume set

Artscroll Gemara Arachin

\$60 One volume (2 copies requested for Amud-a-Week use)

Artscroll Gemara Pesachim

\$60 One volume (2 copies requested for Shabbos afternoon class)

Artscroll Sefer Hachinuch

\$55 One volume
\$500 Ten volume set

Metsudah Kitzur Shulchan Aruch

\$90 Two volume (Regular Size)

Kitzur Shulchan Aruch (Hebrew)

\$20 One volume

Kitzur Shulchan Aruch (Hebrew) with Piskei Teshuvos

\$90 Two volume set

Mishnah Berurah (Hebrew)

\$125 Six volume set
\$50 Individual volumes with English transliteration and elucidation (Consult with Rabbi Bogopulsky)

Dedications inscribed in each book donated. Please contact Rabbi Bogopulsky with any questions or to dedicate other volumes not listed here.

Contact the Office by phone (314-991-2100, ext 2) or email (office@nhbz.org) to place your order.

NOTE: Please note that the above prices, effective June 2023, are subject to change.



THE SISTERHOOD SCOOP

JULY 1

Happy 4th of July!

Volume 6

Number 24

12 Tammuz 5783

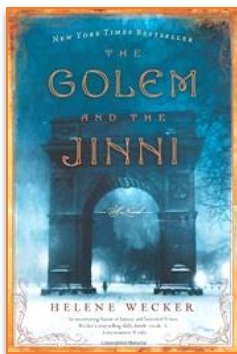
July 1, 2023



"Seen through the eye of faith, today's curse may be the beginning of tomorrow's blessing." -Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Sisterhood Book Club News

Book Club's next book is ***The Golem and the Jinni: A Novel***, by Helene Wecker. The book will be discussed on **Monday, July 31, 7:15-8:45 PM** at the home of **Sharon Summers**. Combining the genre of historical fiction with elements of fantasy, this inventive and delightful novel tells the story of two magical creatures in 19th century New York City.



☆ **SAVE THESE DATES** ☆ **SAVE THESE DATES** ☆

☆ **September 11 – One Hundred Saturdays:**

Stella Levi and the Search for a Lost World, by Michael Frank at the home of Sallie Volotzky

☆ **November 13 – *The Company I Keep: My Life in Beauty***, by Leonard Lauder; Location: TBA

All women are welcome! For more info contact Fran Alper: 314-993-4024; fran.alper@outlook.com or sisterhood@nhbz.org

America, Defender of Religious Liberty

"We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights."

The following is taken directly from Rabbi Sacks' acceptance speech after receiving the highest honour awarded by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

The American Revolution explicitly bases its concept of human rights on G-d and the Bible while the French Revolution explicitly avoids any reference to G-d.

The great shapers of American liberty knew that this liberty was something they were doing because of G-d and in the name of G-d. So, Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address talks about this nation, under G-d, having a new birth of freedom. In his second inaugural, he says, with firmness in the right as G-d gives us to see the right. And of course, that message is absolutely central to John F. Kennedy's great inaugural address, where he speaks about the revolutionary belief, for which our fathers fought, that the rights of man come from the gift of G-d and not from the generosity of the state. What he meant was, quite explicitly, to contrast the American Revolution with the French Revolution, which did hold that the rights of men only came from the generosity of the state.

And that is why American liberty is constitutively religious. You cannot have American liberty without that religious base. Whereas the French type liberty isn't so. The difference is that the American concept of rights is a formula for limited government. What Jefferson meant when he used that phrase inalienable rights was saying, this belongs to us, it cannot belong to the state. The state may come thus far but no further. It cannot interfere with life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is a formula for minimal government. America's great achievement was to turn religion into a force for freedom. And that is what the world needs to know today.

-excerpted from **Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks** ^{ZL}

CHUKAT-BALAK: 'The Value of Privacy'

Many people who are very careful to respect other people's property sometimes fail to respect something even more important: another person's privacy. When the Jewish people were traveling through the desert on the way to the land of Israel, they camped together in thousands of tents. Yet they made sure that no two tents had openings facing each other. This ensured that no one would look into anybody else's tent and invade their privacy. This act of mutual respect was so precious to G-d, that He caused Bilaam, their greatest enemy, to bless the Jews instead of cursing them as he had intended. When we respect people's privacy, we show that we respect who they are.

-excerpted from **Nesanel Yoel Safran**, www.aish.com



Please Join Us For
Father/Son Teen Minyan

SHABBAT, JULY 22

We are proud to introduce a Father/Son Teen Minyan!
This once-monthly Shabbos Minyan will meet in the Chapel
downstairs at 9:00 a.m. Kiddush to follow!

Please contact Rabbi Bogopulsky with any questions
or if you would like to lead davening, leyning or the Haftorah.



www.nhbz.org | 314.991.2100