



NHBZ Weekly News

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

December 23, 2023 • 11 Tevet 5784 • Candle Lighting 4:25 pm • Shabbos Concludes 5:29 pm

Parashas Vayigash
Haftorah Vayigash

Genesis 44:18 – 47:27
Ezekiel 37:15 – 28

Chumash p. 250 – 267
Chumash p. 1144 - 45

Thanks to our generous sponsors this Shabbos

Carole Granillo for sponsoring and making cholent for this Shabbos

Jennifer and Bryson Hartranft for sponsoring Mrs. Elefant's desserts in honor of their daughter Madeline's graduation from University of Missouri "Mizzou" with a degree in mechanical engineering and a double minor in math and aerospace.

Marcela Morgensztern for sponsoring this bulletin in memory of her father, Eduardo Tayah z"l.

Prayer

Friday, December 22

- 6:45 am Shachris
- 4:00 pm Mincha
- 4:25 pm Candle Lighting

Shabbos, Saturday, December 23

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf:
 - ☆ Pesukei D'Zimra: **Howard Sandler**
 - ☆ Shacharis: **Mateo John**
 - ☆ Leyning: **Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**
- 10:00-10:45 am: **Rabbi David**: Downstairs
 - Topic: If Someone Calls You a Donkey, Attach a Saddle: Being Defensive or Being Open to Critique
- 4:10 pm Mincha
- 5:29 pm Shabbos concludes



- ☆ Haftorah: **Marvin Lerner**
- ☆ Sermon: **Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**
- ☆ Musaf: **Alan Haber**

Asarah B'Tevet is on Friday, December 22nd. The 10th of Tevet is a day of repentance, mourning, and fasting from sunrise to sunset. This fast is to remember the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylonia. This event led to the destruction of the First Temple, Solomon's Temple, the downfall of the kingdom of Judah, and the exile of the Jewish people by the Babylonians.

Fast begins: 5:49 am

Fast ends: 5:28 pm

Minyan Times December 22– December 30

	Fri Dec 22 nd	Shabbos Dec 23	Sun Dec 24	Mon Dec 25	Tues Dec 26	Wed Dec 27	Thu Dec 28	Fri Dec 29	Shabbos Dec 30
Shachris (am)	6:45	9:00	8:00	8:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	4:00	4:10	4:20	-	-	-	-	4:25	4:15
Ma'ariv Only (pm)	-	-	-	*7:30	7:30	7:30	7:30	-	-

*Monday Minyan moved to 7:30 pm "Asarah B'Tevet-Fast Day"

Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky • Rabbi Aaron Borow, Emeritus • Rabbi Ze'ev Smason, Emeritus • Kenneth Bressler, President
Nusach Hari B'nai Zion • 650 N. Price Rd. St. Louis, MO 63132 • Phone 314.991.2100 • Web: www.nhbz.org

Congregation News

Mazel Tov on Simchas This Week!

Happy Birthday!

Norman Liss Dec 22
Michael Kass Dec 24
Richard Goldstein Dec 26
Louis Goldman Dec 31

Marvin Lerner Dec 23
Gary Sudin Dec 25
Melanie Rush Dec 26
Eli Szus Dec 31



Happy Anniversary!

Howard & Phyllis Loiterstein Dec 26
Eldad & Danielle Bialecki Dec 31

Craig & Jackie Berkin Dec 27

SAVE THE DATE!

- ✧ Play Mahjong **Tuesday, December 26th** at 1:00 pm
- ✧ Dr. Isaac Amon presents: The Story of Antisemitism: From the Hebrew Bible to October 7th; **January 4th, after Minyan, at 7:45 pm.**
- ✧ NHBZ Shabbos dinner in honor of Tu B'Shvat, **Friday, January 19th**. Open to the community. See flyer for further details.
- ✧ JNF: A Night of Unity in St. Louis. **Thursday, January 25th**, featuring Alon Ben-Gurion, grandson of David Ben-Gurion

Minyan Minute:

What is "**Minyan Minute**"?

*The **Minyan Minute** provides insight to our members about our minyanim. The goal is to enlighten, educate, and motivate others to join us. Please come and fulfill the important mitzvah of praying with a minyan. You will be surprised by the unexpected benefits.*

"I get a lot more that you'd imagine. It is what the prayers are designed to help us achieve: A direct connection and conversation with the Almighty, introspection, and to improve yourself. To learn and strive to be better, and to join in something greater than myself. Minyan is for the benefit of our community collectively, **we are all connected, and frankly related. We remember a person on their yahrzeit. Every person! Minyan does that!** It is an elevation to the soul... Yours and the deceased. I honor the memory of my loved ones by internalizing the prayers which represent goodness, morality, and honoring life, and the past... all the way back. **It feels good and creates a spiritual energy that most of us there feel, I'm sure. I respect our shared beliefs and faith in Hashem.** Minyan is a great way to introduce yourself to regular prayer or to do Tefillin. It's NOT ALL OR NOTHING. Start! Pick one morning or evening,"

Bobby Levine

To share your thoughts with our NHBZ kehillah (community), please contact Bruce Waxman brucewaxman@waxmanaassociates.com or Alan Zarkowsky avzark@aol.com

Parashas Vayigash

In the weekly Torah portions of the past few weeks, we read of the trials and tribulations of Yosef, whose problems compound in episode after episode. He is held captive by his jealous brothers, then sold to a caravan of traders. After being transported to Egypt, he is sold into slavery and later jailed. Nonetheless, through Divine providence, he rises to become ruler of Egypt, second-in-command to the Pharaoh. In this week's parsha, he comes full circle to be reunited with his brothers and his father in one of the most emotionally charged chapters of the Torah.

Yosef HaTzadik unequivocally forgives his bothers for their crime against him. He does not harbor the slightest ill feeling toward them, attributing all that he went through to the hand of G-d. Even his seemingly cruel decision to withhold his identity from his brothers and frame Binyamin is, in fact, motivated by his genuine desire to find forgiveness for them. He jails Binyamin to put his brothers in a situation identical to the one they put themselves in years earlier when they abandoned him. By enabling his brothers to return to the scene of their crime, Yosef gives them the opportunity to not repeat their mistake and to achieve full penance. However, even with Yosef's total forgiveness and his brothers' full repentance, the episode of Yosef's kidnapping manages to come back and haunt the Jewish people.

Toward the end of the Musaf service on Yom Kippur there is a prayer - one of the emotional highlights of the day's services. It is the story of the Ten Martyrs, which graphically and movingly tells the story of ten great sages of the Mishnaic period (including Rabbi Akiva, Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel, and Rabbi Elazar) who were brutally, mercilessly put to death at the anti-Semitic whim of the Roman government.

Why were ten sages of Israel chosen to be slaughtered at this time? A lecturer on the history of Anti-Semitism once began by stating, "As long as there have been Jews, there have been anti-Semites; and as long as there have been anti-Semites, there have been theories of Anti-Semitism." In their book, "Why the Jews?", Dennis Prager and Joseph Telushkin thoroughly explore the many varied reasons for antisemitism.

In our Yom Kippur prayer, "Ayleh Ezkerah," a rather novel and somewhat ironic explanation is given. The Roman ruler opened up the Book of Shemos to the sedra of Mishpatim, where the law regarding kidnapping is found. He then posed this question to the Sages: "What is the law, if a man is found to have kidnapped one of his Jewish brethren and he enslaved him and sold him?" "The kidnapper is to die," the Sages replied. The Roman ruler asked, "Then what about your ancestors, who sold their brother Yosef to a caravan of Ishmaelites? They were never punished as is required by your own Torah. And so you ten [corresponding to the ten brothers] must accept the heavenly judgment upon yourselves." These ten martyrs were slaughtered under the pretext of exacting "justice" for a crime committed over sixteen centuries earlier! How utterly preposterous! But then, isn't all anti-Semitism absurd? Furthermore, isn't all *sinas chinam* – senseless hatred – irrational? Looking into the story of Yosef and his brothers, we find that the reason they sold him into slavery was jealousy and *sinas chinam* – the very same senseless hatred that, the Talmud tells us, caused the destruction of the Bais Hamikdash two thousand years ago. It is that very same senseless hatred that prevents it from being rebuilt today.

We look sadly at the news making headlines around the world and we can't help but wonder, "When will mankind ever learn?" Then we look at the news that we Jews are making – the pronouncements, the statements, the internal strife and discord – and we must also ask ourselves "When will we learn?"

Rabbi Ephraim Slepoy

Beth Israel Synagogue, Longmeadow, MA

Learning at NHBZ

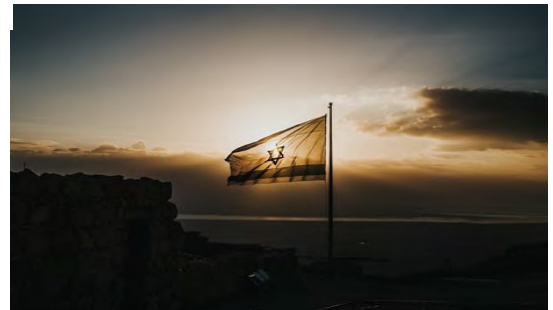
On-Going Classes

- **Gemara Learning with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Weekdays, 6:15 am
- **“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 at 7:00 pm, followed by Ma’ariv at 7:30 pm.
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=tw7lIOVumZ8QeIPxHvApYZsox8VUem.1>
- **Kitzur Shulchan Aruch with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Sunday–In between Mincha and Ma’ariv, and Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 7:15 pm, followed by Ma’ariv at 7:30 pm. Invest a few minutes to expand your understanding of Halacha/Jewish Law.
- **Partners in Torah** Monday nights at 8 pm. Sign up available in person.
- **“Soul Building” Series with Rabbi Yosef David**, Shabbos mornings, 10:00 am
- **Pre-Mincha Shiur with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Every Shabbos afternoon
- **Mishna Learning with Rabbi Chanan Swidler**, Every Sunday morning, after Shachris

Help for Israel

Here are some **suggested** places to donate:

1. Magen David Adom
 - ✧ Online: <https://afmda.org/donate/>
 - ✧ Mailing a check:
 - ✧ American Friends of Magen David Adom
20 West 36th Street, Suite 1100
New York, NY 10018
 - ✧ Call: 866-632-2763
2. United Hatzalah:
 - ✧ Online: https://israelrescue.org/campaign/israel-under-attack/?utm_source=homepage&utm_medium=popup-new-2&utm_campaign=gaza2023
3. Friends of the IDF:
 - ✧ Online: <https://www.fidf.org/>
 - ✧ Mailing a check:
 - ✧ Friends of the Israel Defense Forces
PO Box 4224 NY, NY 10163 USA.
 - ✧ Call: 1-888-318-3433
4. Shaving Israel
 - ✧ Online: www.shavingisrael.org
 - ✧ Mail a check:
 - ✧ PO Box 6991
 - ✧ Chesterfield, MO, 63006





THE SISTERHOOD SCOOP

DECEMBER 23



Volume 6

Number 47

11 Teves 5784

December 23, 2023



Thursday, January 25, 2024 ✨ 6:00 PM
Address Provided Upon Registration

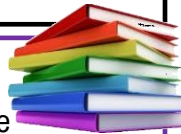
RSVP JNF.ORG/UNITYSTL

All NHBZ members are invited to come together with community members and fellow Zionists for **A Night of Unity**. RSVP to www.jnf.org/UnityStl with **NHBZ table captain: Tereee Farbstein**. We will stand in solidarity and hear how the pivotal work of Jewish National Fund-USA provides essential aid where it matters most. We were there yesterday, we are there today, and we will be there tomorrow.

Featuring... **Alon Ben-Gurion**, the grandson of David Ben-Gurion. Alon will blend personal recollections with historical accounts, unveiling his grandfather David Ben-Gurion's pivotal role in Israel's growth, and explore the deep implications of October 7th, offering valuable insights for our community.

RSVP Required ✨ No Cost to Attend
Dietary Laws Observed ✨ Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Book Club News



The Book Club usually meets on the fourth Monday of odd-numbered months at 7:15-8:45 PM. The first meeting of 2024 will be **January 22** when the Book Club will discuss **People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present** by Dara Horn, described in the Washington Post as "...one of those unexpected, memorable books... riveting, gorgeously written."

For more info call Fran Alper at 314-993-4024 or fran.alper@outlook.com or sisterhood@nhbz.org

VAYIGASH: Can We Tolerate Tolerance?

Have you ever been in the ironic position where someone accused you of lacking tolerance and in the process became intolerant toward you?

Several weeks ago, I was visiting a synagogue one morning when a total stranger disagreed with something I said and started to shout at me. He didn't know me at all but was convinced that he knew about my lack of openness to other points of view. I tried to engage him, and he refused. I tried to introduce myself and shake his hand, but once again, he refused. I believe that this kind of attitude is rooted in a basic misconception of tolerance. Tolerance does not mean that we must agree with divergent points of view... or even that we must consider all points of view as potentially correct. Tolerance means that while we might reject an idea, we don't reject the person.

Tolerance and Conviction

Rejecting certain ideas goes along with having moral convictions. So, if rejecting certain ideas is equated with being intolerant, then there is no room for moral conviction. I believe that we can be tolerant *and* believe in the correctness of our position. I can connect with you, and I can find something admirable in you, even as I vehemently disagree with you.

Don't Fight on the Path

Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, but in a surprise turn of events, Joseph went from being a slave to becoming viceroy of Egypt. When a famine struck the Middle East and the brothers traveled to Egypt, where food was plentiful, they discovered that their own brother was now viceroy. Joseph sent them home laden with food and gifts but admonished them not to fight on the path home. The conventional understanding of this admonishment was that he wanted to be sure they would not fight over who was at fault for selling him into slavery. But one commentator took a novel approach to these words (Divrei Yisrael, ad loc)...

Joseph understood that he was different than his brothers. They preferred shepherding and meditating in solitude, while he made use of his outgoing nature to effect change in his surroundings. Joseph understood that his brothers' primary issue with him was this basic difference. They were afraid of the one anomaly in the family who had embarked on an unfamiliar path. They had no idea where this path might lead, and they didn't think it would lead anywhere good. In a bid to stop him, they sold him into slavery.

Now that they were reunited, Joseph admonished them, "Don't fight over the path." Don't get into a fight over which path in the service of G-d is the correct one. We know that we disagree, but just because we disagree, doesn't mean that we need to fight. We don't have to grow angry when we discover a divergent point of view. Others are entitled to respect, even if we think they are wrong.

It is okay to think that others are wrong. It is okay to tell others that they are wrong. But it must be communicated with respect. Remember that you are disagreeing with an idea, not with a person. And if you can't agree with this person on this one subject, look for another subject on which you can agree.

– adapted from **Rabbi Lazer Gurkow**, www.chabad.org



Community Shabbos Dinner

Please Join Us
Friday, January 19th

at Nusach Hari B'nai Zion
in honor of Tu B'Shvat, ●bserved this
year on Thurs., January 25th

Mincha / Kabbalat Shabbos 4:45
Followed by a delicious dinner 5:45

Tu B'Shvat themed dinner will be prepared
by our very own culinary artist, Norma Rubin



\$25 for adults \$15 for children ages 5-12, under age 5 free. \$80 family max

RSVP by January 12th
office@nhbz.org or 314-991-2100

בס"ד

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**SUN 24 AND
MON 25 DECEMBER**
10:15 AM - 3:00 PM

COST FOR SEMINAR

Both days - \$36 per adult
One day - \$25 per adult
Free for kids

COST FOR LUNCH

1st day (Deli) - \$15 adult
\$7.50 per child (ages 5 - 12)
2nd day (Chinese) - \$20 adult
\$10 per child (ages 5-12)
kids under 5 eat free

LOCATION

Epstein Hebrew Academy
8645 Old Bonhomme Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63132ds

Limited seating
RSVP by calling 314-862-2474
or emailing cwolff@aishstl.com

FREE FOR
KIDS 12 &
UNDER





The Story of Antisemitism: From the Hebrew Bible to October 7th

Join us for Minyan
January 4th, 2024, at 7:30 pm
and stay for a special presentation at 7:45 by
Dr. Isaac Amon



Description: Animosity towards Jews dates back millennia. In the ancient world, libels were perpetrated against Jewish beliefs and traditions, but anti-Judaism became most striking under Christianity. In the Middle Ages, Jewish life was subject to persecution, massacre, and expulsion, especially in Christian lands. Under Islam, Jews were tolerated as second-class subjects. In the 20th century, 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust whilst age-old Jewish communities in the Middle East and North Africa were ethnically cleansed. Following October 7th, antisemitism has surged to unprecedented levels in Europe and the United States.

Join us for a timely and haunting overview of the world's oldest hatred across space and time.

Dr. Isaac Amon is Director of Academic Research at Jewish Heritage Alliance, an educational organization dedicated to promoting the legacy of Sefarad, or Jews of the Iberian Peninsula. He earned a J.D., LL.M in dispute resolution and J.S.D. (PhD in Law) in comparative criminal procedure from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. A former legal fellow at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague and an ISIS war crimes investigator, he often speaks on the law, antisemitism, and Jewish history and memory.

Dr. Isaac Amon
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