



NHBZ Weekly News

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion

Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

December 30, 2023 • 18 Tevet 5784 • Candle Lighting 4:29 pm • Shabbos Concludes 5:33 pm

Parashas Vayechi
Haftorah Vayechi

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

Chumash p. 268 – 289
Chumash p. 1145 - 46

Thank you to **Rabbi Chaim and Batya Bogopulsky** for sponsoring
a Kiddush lunch this Shabbos in honor of their daughter
Devora Leah's Bat Mitzvah!

Prayer

Friday, December 29

- 7:00 am Shachris
- 4:25 pm Mincha
- 4:29 pm Candle Lighting

Shabbos, Saturday, December 30

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf:
 - ☆ Pesukei D'Zimra: **TBA**
 - ☆ Shacharis: **TBA**
 - ☆ Leyning: **Ben Winograd &**

Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky

- 10:00-10:45 am: **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason, Emeritus:** Downstairs
 - Topic: Begin again: What Can Make 2024 Your Best Year Ever?
- 4:15 pm Mincha
- 5:33 pm Shabbos concludes



- ☆ Haftorah: **Eli Szus**
- ☆ Sermon: **Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**
- ☆ Musaf: **TBA**



Minyan Times December 29– January 6

	Fri Dec 29	Shabbos Dec 30	Sun Dec 31	Mon *Jan 1	Tues Jan 2	Wed Jan 3	Thu Jan 4	Fri Jan 5	Shabbos Jan 6
Shachris (am)	7:00	9:00	8:00	8:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	4:25	4:15	4:25	4:30	-	-	-	4:30	4:20
Ma'ariv Only (pm)	-	-	-	-	7:30	7:30	7:30	-	-

*New Year's 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!

Louis Goldman Dec 31
Lila Belasen Jan 1
Mark Seigel Jan 2

Eli Szus Dec 31
Naftali Kadosh Jan 1
Avraham Smason Jan 4



Happy Anniversary!

Eldad & Danielle Bialecki Dec 31

Message from the President:

Dear Members,

I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve as your synagogue President for these past two years - it has been an honor. It has also been an honor to sit next to Rabbi Bogopulsky on the Bima, following Rabbi Smason's transition to Rabbi Emeritus. I plan to stay active at NHBZ in the coming year, with the understanding that I must revert much of my attention back to my job and to my family. In particular, I want to thank my wife Barb for allowing me to make the synagogue a priority over our personal life on so many occasions. No president can do this job alone, and I appreciate all the hard work, the support, and the guidance offered by the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the many volunteers as I endeavored to steer the synagogue in the right direction. Please continue to give Nora Baranyk your full support as she continues to step up to the plate as our new Synagogue administrator. NHBZ's mission is to continue to provide members and guests a welcoming environment for learning, praying, and celebrating simchas together.

May Nusach Hari B'nai Zion merit to have a successful, meaningful, and prosperous 2024.

Thank you,

[Kenny Bressler](#)

Synagogue President

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.*

These days I attend morning minyan for the daily Talmud session with Rabbi Bogopulsky. Before that it was for the camaraderie and to speak to Hashem through formal prayer. Hashem and camaraderie will always be the draw. Rabbi B makes it better, like frosting on the cake.

Tony Granillo

Minyan is a good time for me to unwind and forget about all of the problems we Jews are facing now. October 7th really depressed me. So at least I can have some hope by going to a minyan.

Jim Pollock

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

Parashas Vayechi

How much importance do we attach to blessings that we receive from others? How seriously do we take them? Our Sages established that "everything depends upon the one who gives the blessing and the one who receives it."

What if G-d Himself gives the blessing? A deeper significance to the concept of blessings is found in the Almighty's declaration to Avraham, "*Veheyey bracha* - You will be a blessing." This gave Avraham the Divine authority to bless anyone else he wanted, according to Rashi. The Ramban explains that Avraham became the model through whom other people blessed each other. But there is another way to understand "*Veheyey brachah*." The Torah tells us that Avraham Aveinu, just before his death, "gave Yitzchok all that he possessed. And to the children of his concubines, Avraham gave gifts." But, how did he give his many other children gifts, if he bequeathed it all to Yitzchok?

"All that he possessed," the Midrash writes, does not simply refer to Avraham's material wealth, but also to his spiritual wealth, his essence, his very being. Avraham's personality and demeanor, his perspective on life, these he bestowed solely upon Yitzchak. One dare not equate material riches of cattle and oil with the spiritual riches secured by Avraham and passed to Yitzchak. Yaakov, too, in Parshat Vayechi, wishes to bestow blessings upon his children as a last will and testament. The Torah states, "Each man according to his blessing, he blessed them." Yaakov individualized each of his blessings for each of his sons, Rashi writes.

But Rav Yosef D. Soloveitchik, *zt"l*, explains that "according to his blessing" does not necessarily refer to the blessings' recipients, his sons, but could, in fact, refer to Yaakov himself. Yaakov blessed them with *his* blessing – that is, with his essence, with his very being.

In addition to tailoring each *bracha* to the personality and temperament of each of his sons, Yaakov gave them all a common *bracha*, one that he had received from Yitzchak, who, in turn, had received it from Avraham. Parents have always made every effort to bless their children with estates of material wealth. Some are even judged by how much they've left for their children.

The meaning of *Veheyey bracha* shouts out to us. You will be a blessing! How much of *you* did you bequeath to your children? How much of your Torah and moral character, how much of your spiritual legacy will your children inherit? Let us be sure to answer those questions.

Rabbi Yaakov Pollak

SAVE THE DATE!

- ✧ Mahjong, Tuesday January 2nd at 1:00 pm; Contact Jennifer Hartranft if you plan on joining: jennihart93@gmail.com
- ✧ Dr. Isaac Amon presents: The Story of Antisemitism: From the Hebrew Bible to October 7th; **January 4th, after Minyan, at 7:45 pm.**
- ✧ Rabbi Shais Taub; The power of perspective. **January 6th at 8 pm.** See flyer for details.
- ✧ 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

Want even more NHBZ news and updates?

Join our WhatsApp group!

To join: either scan the QR code with your phone OR screenshot the code and scan it from your photos!

NHBZ
WhatsApp group



Learning at NHBZ

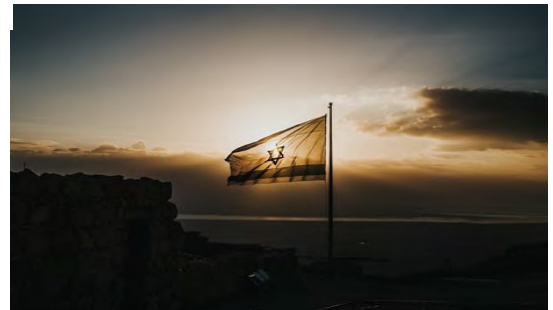
On-Going Classes

- **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 30



Volume 6

Number 48

18 Teves 5784

December 30, 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

VAYECHI: Don't Just Pass the Buck

Right before Jacob passed away, he asked his son, Joseph, to promise him that he would be buried in Israel and not in Egypt. Joseph immediately said:

"I will personally do as you have said" (Genesis 47:30).

We've all had the experience after being told that something will get done, that for one reason or another, it never happens. The person might have had all of the best intentions to do it himself, but quite often he asks others to assist him, or he delegates it to someone else entirely, and then someone drops the ball and it never gets done at all, or gets done poorly.

But when someone assures us that he will **personally** do something, taking full responsibility for the task, it almost always gets done right. This is what Joseph did -- he told Jacob that he will do as he said, making a personal guarantee that his request will be done. This is because a piece of the person is now on the line. People who take explicit ownership for something will feel a sense of healthy pressure to make sure that it gets done because their own self-esteem and self-respect are now all tied into the completion of this task.

Many people don't take **personal** responsibility because it's so much easier just to pass the buck. By verbalizing to others that you're taking on a task yourself, then you will now gain enormous self-esteem. This is because you'll now see yourself as someone who isn't afraid to commit and as someone who keeps his word.

It's also comforting to hear someone say he'll personally take care of something. It shows just how much the person cares and the importance he places on our request. So the next time you're asked if you can do something, don't just agree. Say *"I will personally do as you have said,"* and watch the contentment and ease flush the requester's face. And since taking full, total, and complete responsibility will also dramatically increase your own self-esteem, you'll feel even better than the requester does. – **Adam Lieberman**, www.aish.com

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

In Berlin in the 1930's, two old Jews are sitting on a park bench reading the newspaper. One is reading a Yiddish paper and the other guy's reading a German newspaper.

The first guy asks the other guy, "How can you read that Nazi rag?"



The second guy responds, "What are you talking about? When I read the Yiddish paper, it's all about Jews deported, Jews insulted, Jews assaulted. When I read the German paper, the news is much better! Turns out, we own the banks, we own the media, we control everything!"



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
DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH
JEWISH HERITAGE ALLIANCE
Advancing the Legacy of Sefarad
www.JewishHeritageAlliance.com



Community Shabbos Dinner

Please Join Us
Friday, January 19th

at Nusach Hari B'nai Zion
in honor of Tu B'Shvat, Observed 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

ב"ה

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Morris & Ann Lazaroff Chabad Center and Regional Office

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