



NHBZ Weekly News

Welcome to Nusach Hari B'nai Zion
 Affiliated with Union of Orthodox Congregations of America

January 20, 2024 • 10 Shevat 5784 • Candle Lighting 4:49 pm • Shabbos Concludes 5:55 pm

Parashas Bo
 Haftarah Bo

Exodus 10:1 – 13:16
 Jeremiah 46:13 – 28

Chumash p. 340 – 365
 Chumash p. 1151

*We thank Fran, Caryn, and Joanna Alper
 for sponsoring the bulletin this week
 in honor of the birthday of Lenny Alper!*

Prayer

Friday, January 19

- 7:00 am Shachris
- 4:45 pm Mincha
- 4:49 pm Candle Lighting

Shabbos, Saturday, January 20

- 9:00 am Shachris followed by Musaf
 - ☆ Thank you to **Kenny Bressler** for Leyning and thank you to all those who helped lead davening this morning.
- 10:00-10:45 am: **Rabbi Ze'ev Smason Emeritus**: Downstairs
 - ☆ Topic: Begin again: How to be a Modern-Day Mensch
- 4:35 pm Mincha
- 5:55 pm Shabbos concludes



Tu B'Shevat is on the 15th of Shevat, which falls on January 25th, 2024. This holiday marks the "New Year" for trees, as it marks the season of the earliest blooming trees in Israel. On this holiday, it is traditional to eat the fruits mentioned in the Torah: Pomegranates, Figs, Dates, Grapes, and Olives.

Minyan Times January 19– January 27

	Fri Jan 19	Shabbos Jan 20	Sun Jan 21	Mon Jan 22	Tues Jan 23	Wed Jan 24	Thu Jan 25	Fri Jan 26	Shabbos Jan 27
Shachris (am)	7:00	9:00	8:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	7:00	9:00
Mincha/Ma'ariv (pm)	4:45	4:35	4:50	-	-	-	-	4:55	4:45
Ma'ariv Only (pm)	-	-	-	*7:45	7:30	7:30	7:30	-	-

*Monday Ma'ariv time moved to 7:45 pm to accommodate Partners in Torah

Congregation News

Mazel Tov on Simchas This Week!

Happy Birthday!

Lenny Alper	Jan 21
Rachael Pevnick	Jan 22
Ram Volotzky	Jan 24

Scott Gitel	Jan 21
Helayne Levitt	Jan 24
Sara Garmaise	Jan 25



Coat Room Cleanout Completed!

Thank you to those who removed their personal items from the coatroom in the lobby prior to the Cleanout.

Items that remained were placed in the "Lost and Found." If you discover that you are missing anything – coats, scarves, shoes, pets, gloves, etc. – contact the office to reclaim your stuff!



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.

"Please come and fulfill the important mitzvah of praying with a minyan."

"It's definitely better to pray with a minyan in shul than with a minyan at home (except for shiva)",

"It's definitely better to pray without a minyan in shul than without a minyan at home", based on Talmud and Shulchan Aruch.

"praying with a minyan is beautiful for your soul"

"the minyan is the most democratic grouping, where all are equally important, irrespective of their other stations in life"

"it gives the youngest 13 year old, the same status as a 113 year old. what other institution does that." onwards and upwards...daven with a minyan and be counted and elevated.

Menachem Szus

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

SAVE THE DATE!

- ✧ JNF: A Night of Unity in St. Louis. **Thursday, January 25th**, featuring Alon Ben-Gurion, grandson of David Ben-Gurion; RSVP *no later than January 15th*. www.jnf.org/UnityStL
- ✧ Pizza Night returns **January 28th**. See flyer for details.

Parashas Bo

Pharaoh's behavior during the ten plagues seems incomprehensible. During several plagues, Pharaoh capitulates and agrees to let the Jewish people leave Egypt. Yet as soon as each plague ends Pharaoh recants – even though he knows that his stubbornness will result in further punishment for Egypt. Equally unfathomable is the indifference of the Egyptian population toward the exhortations of Moshe. After accurately predicting six plagues of doom, Moshe forewarns the people of the upcoming hail and tells them not to leave their slaves and animals out in the fields, lest they be killed. Nonetheless, the Torah reports, many Egyptians did just that and their slaves and livestock perished. What accounted for their stubbornness?

The Kotzker Rebbe makes a striking observation. “Pharaoh rose in the night,” the Torah reports, and Rashi comments that he rose from his bed. Imagine: after enduring nine terrible plagues, Moshe warns Pharaoh that at midnight every firstborn in the country would die. Pharaoh completely ignores this prophecy and goes to sleep! How could he be so relaxed in the face of such compelling danger? Seven days after this plague, another remarkable incident occurs. In perhaps the greatest miracle of human history, G-d splits the waters of the Red Sea, and the Jewish people pass through. The Egyptian army follows, and to nobody’s surprise, G-d brings the waters crashing down on them. Why did the Egyptians think that G-d, who had been defending the Jewish people all along, would suspend the waters’ onslaught for the benefit of the Jews’ enemies?

The Torah explains the mentality of Pharaoh and the Egyptian people simply: They "did not take to heart the word of G-d." Human beings are given the capacity to ignore even the most obvious truths, something psychologists call "denial." With powerful symbolism, the ninth plague of darkness reflects this irrational behavior in the Egyptians. The Rabbis tell us that when a Jew visited an Egyptian home, there was light for the Jew and darkness for the Egyptian. The very same spot was both light and dark, depending on the viewer's perception. The Jew saw the hand of G-d clearly revealed, but the Egyptian remained in the dark, seeing nothing at all. Thus, the plague of darkness preceded the final blow, providing the key psychological insight into the mental blindness that prevailed in Egypt.

There is an important lesson to be learned from these events: We all have traces of Pharaoh's personality lingering within us. We, too, sometimes deny self-evident truths and close our eyes to blatant realities. Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzatto, in his classic work of Jewish ethics, *Mesilas Yesharim*, instructs every human being to ask himself the question, "*Mah chovosi ba'olami*" What is my obligation in life? Why did G-d create me with unique talents and abilities? What is the purpose of my existence? This inquiry is fundamental, yet many people live out their lives never once having pondered this question and its implications. If the behavior of Pharaoh and the Egyptian people strikes us as absurd, perhaps we should look at ourselves and become inspired to open our souls, to see the light of the Almighty which illuminates the entire world.

Rabbi Yaakov Luban

Ohr Torah Congregation, Edison, New Jersey

Learning at NHBZ

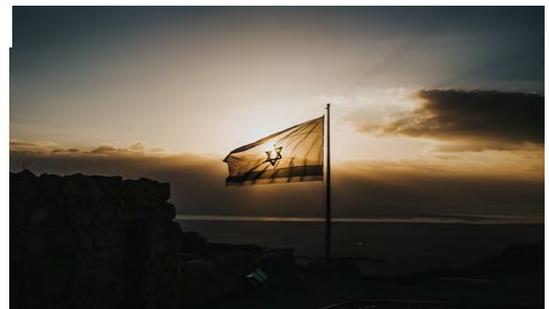
On-Going Classes

- **Gemara Learning with Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky**, Weekdays, 6:15 am. **Resumes Monday January 22nd.**
- **“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. **Resumes Tuesday January 23rd.**
- **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**, resumes Wednesday, January 24th. 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=tw7IIOVumZ8QelPxHvApYZsox8VUem.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. **Resumes Monday January 22nd.**
- **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



NHBZ ELECTION RESULTS

Polls closed at Noon on December 10, 2023

The election results are in.

Congratulations to the new Officers and newly elected Board Members

NHBZ Officers for 2024 -- 1 Year Term

President ***
Vice President Jennifer Hartranft
Vice President Stella Vladimirov
Vice President Denny Feit
Vice President Dan Winograd
Treasurer Bruce Waxman
Secretary Caryn Alper
Gabbai Alan Zarkowsky

Newly Elected Board Members

Full 3-Year Term, 2024-2026
Marcie Brook
Faye Cohen
Fran Reisler
Meira Ganel
Evan Garmais
Filling Partial Term, 2024-2025
Jerry Tullman

*** The four VPs will temporarily share duties

Continuing Board Members

Through 2024
Rhonnie Goldfader
Joni Kaiser
Bobby Levine
Ed Levitt
Gavriel Matt
Through 2025
Nancy Belau Rush
Margo Tzadok
Tony Granillo
Richard Woolf

*Thanks to all who
attended the
membership
meeting and voted
in the election!
Stay tuned for the
installation date.*



Trustees (Past Presidents)

Leonard Alper
Craig Berkin
Kenny Bressler
Janet Haber
Robert Kaiser

Mark Ragin
Irwin Rosen
Menachem Szus
Jay Umansky
Alan Zarkowsky



THE SISTERHOOD SCOOP

JANUARY 20



Volume 7

Number 3

10 Shevat 5784

January 20, 2024

Book Club Meets Monday

The Sisterhood Book Club  will meet this **Monday, January 22, 7:15-8:45 PM** at the home of **Sharon Summers** in Richmond Heights. **Please RSVP** for the address and directions. **Contact Sharon at 314-285-1687**, or email summers8032@gmail.com, or for more info, call Fran Alper at 314-993-4024, or email: fran.alper@outlook.com or sisterhood@nhbz.org.

The group will discuss the book Kirkus reviews described as *“Brilliantly readable... Readers will be enthralled throughout by the fierce logic of Horn’s arguments, novelty of research, black humor, and sharp phrasing... A riveting, radical, essential revision of the stories we all know — and some we don’t.”*

The book has the controversial title, **People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present** by Dara Horn, but is a thoughtful, well-written, and highly engaging read. **Come join us!**

PARSHAS BO: Really Big

The stubbornness of Par-oh in the face of almost one year of devastating plagues is unparalleled in human history. To simply say he hardened his heart sheds no light on the weakness in his character that would blind him to the path of submission that would have saved his country from disaster.

The Torah states that when Par-oh entered his palace, he suddenly had a change of heart and would reject the demands of Moshe and Aharon for freedom for the Jews. *“And he came into his house and did not concern his heart with this [warning] either”*. Shemot 7:15 Rabenu Bahye adds that the wicked king Nebuchadnezzar was also proud of his palace and therefore became haughty.

The question is: These monarchs had fame, success, and power – Why did their palace make them conceited when they had so much else of which to be proud? The lesson is that arrogance is not an intellectual response, but instead an emotional one. A beautiful home with its opulent décor aroused feelings of *ga-avah* – arrogance – more that wealth and power did intellectually.

We live in a society where exterior trappings define the man. Clothing – cars – and big-boy toys define a person to friends and neighbors more than the real person does. More dangerous is the fact that these not so meaningful possessions transform the way one looks at oneself as well. A simple man surrounded by lavish trappings sees a distorted self-image that may very well lead to haughty behavior beyond one’s true worth as a human being and as a member of society. Wrong decisions and poor choices are sure to follow the blindness of conceit.

The Jewish home has been a paradigm for an environment conducive to spiritual growth and boundless self-improvement through the ages. Even the wicked prophet Bil-am praised, *“Ma tovu ohalekha Yisrael – How goodly are your tents Israel”* as he perused the modest lifestyle of our ancestors. We should all take a close look at our priorities and re-establish our homes as a beautiful environment to nurture ourselves and our children in a life of happiness and contentment steeped in Torah values.

– **Rabbi Raymond Beyda**, www.torah.org



WE STAND WITH ISRAEL

Night of Unity

Thurs., 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: Teree 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 Sponsorship Opportunities Available Dietary Laws Observed



JEWISH NATIONAL FUND USA

A Religion of Memory

“There is a fundamental difference between living with the past and living in the past. Judaism is a religion of memory. We remember the exodus annually, even daily. But we do so for the sake of the future, not the past.”

– **Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks**^{Z"l}
Letting Go (Bo, Covenant & Conversation)

Sunday, Jan 28th • 5:00-7:00 pm

\$15 ALL ADULTS \$8 KIDS AGES 3-12 - KIDS UNDER 3 FREE!

Cheese is Cholov Yisroel; pareve crusts available upon request. All food under the supervision of Rabbi Chaim Bogopulsky

NHBZ.ORG 314-991-2100
DON'T MISS PIZZA NIGHT!

Nusach Hari
B'nai Zion

Dine In
at the shul

The Lion's Den KOSHER Pizza Night

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET

Includes Pizza, Pasta, Salad and French Fries plus a Dessert and a Beverage

Returns!



Amazing
Salad!
We accept credit cards at
NHBZ PIZZA NIGHT



Delicious
Pasta
NHBZ PIZZA NIGHT



NHBZ PIZZA NIGHT

BLOOD DRIVE

St. Louis Jewish Community

Sunday, February 4 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Young Israel of St. Louis 8101 Delmar Blvd

Masks optional. Appointments required.

To schedule an appointment, **scan QR code**,
call ImpactLife at 800.747.5401,
or go to bloodcenter.org/group, grp #11448



All NHBZ Members
are encouraged to participate
in the StL Jewish Community
Blood Drive