



The Beth Israel Bulletin

A Publication of Beth Israel Synagogue

January 2018 ~ Tevet/Shevat 5778



Plant a tree in Israel in celebration of Tu B'Shevat. Visit the Jewish National Fund website at jnf.org and visit the JNF Tree Center page for information.

Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, *Rabbi*

We are about to end the book of "Bereishit" and start the Book of "Shemot" as the Jewish people go down to Egypt and become a nation. We then are brought out of Egypt and apply all the hard lessons learned there to build our nation in Israel.

Similarly, although Omaha is second best to Israel and there is so much to learn from our Nebraska surroundings, our goal is to look to the east and realize that the destiny of our people is to be in the land of Israel where we can apply all that we have gained.

Rabbi Ari

Rabbi Ari will be out of town traveling on the Jewish Federation Teen Trip to Israel Dec 24 - Jan 5.

Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, *Visiting Scholar*

Winter is here! The cold and the snow are causing us to stay more at home, spending more time with our family. During the past month, I had the privilege of keeping one of the most precious mitzvot - honoring and respecting our parents - when my mother came to visit us from Israel. It was a wonderful opportunity for our family to be together.

The mitzvah of honoring the parents has two (at least, two) aspects. The first aspect is to be grateful for all what your parents did for you. However, it is much more than just gratefulness. Our parents are connecting us to the past generations, to our nation, and to eternity. Through our parents and our family we feel how we are part of something which is bigger than us, a feeling that should shape our behavior in our daily life.

Rabbi Shlomo



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All past presidents

***The next
Board of Commissioners
meeting will be held on
January 10th beginning
at 6:30pm
in the Social Hall.***

***Agenda items must be
submitted two weeks
in advance.***



A warm "thank you" to Beth Israel's wonderful supporters

...the Chanukah Carnival Committee members for the work and planning of the fabulous carnival event - Sarah Abrahamson, Tippi Denenberg, Faige Jeidel, Yaakov Jeidel, Rabbi Shlomo, Rabbi Ari, and Mary Sue Grossman.

Thanks also to the MANY volunteers who helped staff the event.

...to Shirley and David Goodman, Maneva and Harold Edelman, and Jack and Helene Shrago for sponsoring the Chanukah Carnival.

...to Rabbi Ari and Laura for hosting the Chanukah Grill and Chill for college students.

...to Jordana Kurtzman for hosting the December Rosh Chodesh group.

...to Michael and Melissa Shrago and Helene and Jack Shrago for sponsoring kiddush lunch in honor of Noah's Bar Mitzvah.

...Ben Shapiro and Amy Reynolds for their donation of bunk beds and bedding for the shul apartment.

...to Jordana Kurtzman, Dani Shrago, Linda Potash, Anna Goldberg and other volunteers for their continued work baking, shopping, kiddush and Seudah Shlishit prep, and clean-up.



...to Jay and Adrianna Benton on the birth of a son on December 2. Mazel Tov also to the proud grandmother, Bonnie Hines.

...to Noah Shrago and his parents Michael and Melissa Shrago and Lesli Shrago on his Bar Mitzvah. Noah's grandparents are Jack and Helene Shrago and step-grandparents are Shelley and Skip Stern.

...to Zoe Berman for receiving the Regional Lev Tahor award at the NCSY Winter Conclave. This is awarded to a teen who shows personal Jewish growth and hard work and dedication to NCSY. Zoe's parents are Beth Cohen and Harry Berman.

Have a special celebration in your family?

Please call or email the office and let us to share your simcha news!

Celebrating a special happening in January? A birthday or anniversary? Just \$25 helps make the happening extra special. Call Bette Kozlen or the office to be included. The January Simcha Kiddush will be held January 20th.



**Rosh Chodesh
Group Welcomes
Shevat**

Tuesday, January 16, 7:30-9pm

Contact office for location

Join the women of Beth Israel in welcoming the month of Shevat. While Shevet is well known as the month of Tu B'Shevat, the sign for the month is Aquarius, the water bearer. The fun evening will include a bit of learning, conversation, and refreshments. Watch the weekly emails or call the synagogue office for the location. Open to all women in the community.



Be a part of this marvelous program and help secure a Jewish future for Beth Israel and Omaha's Jewish community. Contact Bonnie Bloch, Donald Gerber or Mary Sue Grossman to learn more.

From Mechitza to the Wedding Canopy - Gender Roles in Judaism

First, thank you to the over 50 people who attended Rabbi Ari's class, *The Jewish Way in Death and Mourning*. He was so pleased to discuss these topics and to answer so many questions. Were you unable to attend? Both sessions are available on Beth Israel's Facebook page.

At the end of the class, people immediately asked "When is the next class and what's the topic?" Rabbi Ari is happy to announce a two-session class titled ***From the Mechitza to the Marriage Canopy***. Classes will meet Sundays, January 14 and 21 from 10-11:15 am at Beth Israel Synagogue.

"There has always been discussion and unfortunately, misunderstanding, about gender roles in Judaism," says Rabbi Ari. "This class will explain how Torah defines the roles of men and women in real life scenarios such as the Jewish wedding, in services, and everyday life. No doubt there will be many questions and some great discussion during the sessions." The class is open to the community, free of charge. Please register on-line or call the synagogue office at (402) 556-6288.



It's a Shabbat Experience with Students from Sharei Prozdur January 18-21

Based in Long Island, NY and
run by Rabbi Elly Merenstein,

Sharei Prozdur (gates of the palace) is a newly opened yeshiva with just 26 boys, all of whom are in the 9th grade. Additional students will join the school during the next three years. From Thursday, January 18 to Sunday, January 21, they will be visit Omaha and Beth Israel for an amazing experience. They will learn from a community that differs from where they live, but also to have an impact on Beth Israel as well. Binyamin & Mimi Lerner will travel with the group to Omaha.

Father-Son Learning

Thursday, January 18

Contact Yaakov Jeidel (see below) for details

Congregational Shabbat Dinner

Friday, January 19

Soup, challah, brisket, potatoes,
vegetables, and dessert

\$10 for adults; \$5 for 3-12

Reservations needed by Monday, January 15

Register on-line or call the synagogue office

Sharei Prozdur Talent Show

Saturday, January 20

7 p.m.

Enjoy a great evening with the boys of Sharei Prozdur during an epic talent show.

Interested in volunteering during the visit?

***Please contact Yaakov Jeidel at yjeidel@yahoo.com
or (917) 750-5089.***

Cholent Madness Returns

The wonderful aroma of cholent, the quintessential Shabbat food, will fill the Social Hall at Beth Israel with the return of "Cholent Madness." Eight contestants will compete to win the coveted "Cholent Champion" prize.

The delicious fun begins Shabbat, January 20 and continues through February with the winner announced in early March

- ◆ Beth Israel will provide meat, potatoes, barley, onions and beans. Contestants may also utilize spices from the Beth Israel kitchen
- ◆ Other ingredients are the responsibility of the contestant to provide/purchase. Up to \$25 will be reimbursed when receipts are provided.
- ◆ All items provided by contestant will be checked by Rabbi Shlomo to confirm kashrut acceptability.
- ◆ Each individual or team must make their own cholent - it cannot be made by someone else - and it must be made at Beth Israel the day before your scheduled entry date.
- ◆ Cholent to serve 60 people is to be planned.
- ◆ Two cholents will be served each week with voting held that day.

Register TODAY by calling the synagogue office at (402) 556-6288!

Jewish Youth Experience at Beth Israel

*Beth Israel's innovative,
dynamic new program for
youth of all ages*



SHABBAT PROGRAMMING

10:30-11:15 a.m.

*Class times may vary slightly - please
confirm with the teacher. All classes may
not be held each week*

3-6 years - *Middot Class* with Dr. Gendelman
7-11 years - *Parsha Pearls* with Mr. Gerber
12-17 years - *Shmooz'n Torah* with Faige Jeidel
12-17 years - *Matmidim* with Mr. Shrago
Approx 12pm, *Teen Class* with Rabbi Ari

Tot Shabbat

10:40-11 a.m. - For 3-6 year olds

Dec 16, Jan 20

Led by teens with Faige Jeidel

SUNDAY PROGRAMMING

10-11:30 a.m. - For K-6th Grades

Dec 31 - *Jewish Calendar / Hebrew Birthday*
Jan 7 - *Jewish Names / Alef Bet*
Jan 14 - *Emes / Honesty*
Jan 21 - *Shmiras Halashon*

JYE BI/P.J. Library

10:30-11:30a.m. - Infants - 6 years

Jan 7 - *Little Hands, Big Hearts* - Friedel
Baby-sitting for ages 6 months - 6 years

OTHER PROGRAMMING

7th-12th Grades

Jan 2 - *BBQ & Learn* - 7-8pm
Jan 15 - *West Lane Bowling* - 6:30-8pm
Jan 29 - *Hot Soup & Learn* - 7-8pm

*Many thanks to our awesome JYE BI staff
Donald Gerber, Dr. Howie Gendelman,
Leon Shrago, Faige Jeidel, Sarah Abrahamson,
Rabbi Ari, Rabbi Shlomo, Hodaya Abramovich,
and Yaakov Jeidel.*

WEEK OF LEARNING AT BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

*Sponsoring a Week of Learning is a wonderful way to
commemorate a special occasion and support Beth Israel.
A sponsorship is just \$100. Contact the office to schedule.*

Weekday Mornings

Approximately 20 mins before Mincha
Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion

Sunday

9:45 a.m. - Bagels & Beit Medrash

Monday

12:00 p.m. - Talmudic Tales with Rabbi Shlomo

Thursday

7:45 a.m. - Ethics Class with Rabbi Ari
9:30 a.m. - Woman's Class with Rabbi Ari
12 noon - Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Shlomo @ UNMC

Study according to your schedule with ***Torah in Your Home***.
Meet one-on-one, or with a few friends for this learning
opportunity. Contact Rabbi Shlomo to set up a time.
Bar and Bat Mitzvah prep provided by Donald Gerber and
Rabbi Ari. Contact them directly for additional information.

See left column for JYE BI schedule

Beth Israel Scholar-in-Residence Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Abramovich

Beth Israel continues to benefit from the
talents of Rabbi Dr. Shlomo Abramovich,
the synagogue's visiting scholar. Treat
yourself to any or all of his class offerings.



Mondays, 12-1pm, Beth Israel

(No class held on January 1st)

Talmudic Tales

Thursdays, Lunch & Learn, 12pm

UNMC

Jewish Ethics

Friday Learning Series, 11:15-12pm

*Presented through the Jewish Federation of Omaha
Kripke Jewish Federation Library*

January 5, 12, 19

Conversion in Israel

Rabbi Shlomo is also happy to schedule small group or
one-on-one learning. Please contact him directly at
sabramovich@orthodoxomaha.org or (402) 556-6288.

Enrich your soul & your mind with learning!

📷 Photo Gallery 📷



**The Chanukah Toy Drive was a huge success!
Thanks to everyone who donated.**



**Zoe Berman, Ella Seigel, Oz Abramovich, &
Beth Cohen enjoying the Chanukah Carnival**



**Decisions, decisions, decisions! Kids
choosing prizes from the carnival prize table.**



**The Rosh Chodesh Women's Group enjoying Chanukah together
and welcoming the month of Tevet**



**College students gathered for a Chanukah BBQ
at the Dembitzer's**



**Todah Raba to Tippi Denenberg and Community Shaliach,
Yoni Doron, for creating the amazing - delicious! -
"Hummusiya Station" for the Chanukah Carnival!**

OPPORTUNITIES TO CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT BETH ISRAEL

Kiddush Sponsorships

Mark a special occasion by sponsoring a weekly kiddush or Seudah Shlishit.

Week of Learning

Sponsor a Beth Israel Week Day Learning for just \$100, which includes nearly 20 classes. This is a wonderful opportunity to mark a special event.

Simcha Plaques

A birthday, anniversary, birth of a child or grandchild, Bar or Bat Mitzvah in your family? Simcha plaques at just \$100, and are a wonderful way to commemorate your special event.

The Tree of Life

A beautiful and meaningful way to celebrate a milestone or commemorate a loved one is with a lasting presence on the Tree of Life. Prices begin at \$300. Tree of Life donations fund Beth Israel Endowment Fund.

Additional sponsorship opportunities include

Lunch & Learn program, NCSY Shabbatons, youth events, Shabbat Sheet, Scholar-in-Residence programs, college outreach, and many other opportunities.

Beth Israel Tribute Cards

Tribute cards are a wonderful - and easy! - way to commemorate a special occasion, wish someone a speedy recovery, say thank you or express your condolences. Call the synagogue office, email bethisrael@orthodoxomaha.org, submit via the website at www.orthodoxomaha.org or call the synagogue office.

For additional information on supporting Beth Israel, please contact Mary Sue Grossman.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Beth Israel sends its very best wishes to those who will be celebrating in the coming month. Call the synagogue office for any additions.

BIRTHDAYS

Jan 1	Milton Kleinberg	Jan 11	Gabor Obora-Petro
Jan 2	Orion Shnyder	Jan 12	Shoshy Susman
Jan 3	Rose Rosenberg	Jan 12	Jeff Kirshenbaum
Jan 4	Daniel Denenberg	Jan 13	Helene Lohman
Jan 4	Ben Lohman	Jan 13	Alyssa Kirshenbaum
Jan 5	Ron Giller	Jan 14	Joshua Polack
Jan 5	Sasha Denenberg	Jan 15	Max Weiner
Jan 6	Eric Dunning	Jan 16	Shmuel Aaron Shyken
Jan 8	Ed Joseph	Jan 18	Helen Kay
Jan 9	Liora Shapiro	Jan 18	Alan Biniamow
Jan 10	Stacey Rockman	Jan 20	Leo Kohll
Jan 10	Joshua Follick	Jan 21	David Adler
Jan 10	Morton Glass	Jan 27	Eleanor Dunning
Jan 11	Aaron Zacharia Priluck	Jan 28	Nikki Tindall
Jan 11	Barbara Taxman	Jan 30	Scherry Linsman

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Sue & Alex Grossman
Mercedes & Gabor Petro

Jan 16
Jan 18



Celebrate your family simchas at the January Simcha Kiddush, Saturday, January 20th. It's just \$25 to be a sponsor. Call the office at (402) 556-6288 to sign-up.



*Ilene Pachman
Regina "Ginger"
Rothenberg
Reva Oruch*

In Memoriam

*Phillip "Phil" Patterson
Milton Glazer
Esther Erlich*



Beth Israel extends condolences and wishes of comfort to our members and members of the community on the recent loss of loved ones.

Ha'makom yenachem etkhem betokh she'ar avelei Tziyon vi'Yerushalayim

A tribute card is a lovely way to let express your condolences. Call the office at (402) 556-6288 or email executiveasst@orthodoxomaha.org to send a card for condolences or any other occasion.



BETH ISRAEL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 10** - Board of Commissioners Meeting
- Jan 14** - From Mechitza to the Marriage Canopy
- Jan 16** - Rosh Chodesh Group
- Jan 18** - Shabbat Experience with Students from Sharei Prozdur
- Jan 20** - "Cholent Madness" Begins!
- Jan 21** - From Mechitza to the Marriage Canopy
- Jan 31** - Tu B'Shevat

CONTRIBUTIONS

*Beth Israel acknowledges, with sincere thanks, the following contributions made from
November 25 through December 27, 2017*

GENERAL DONATIONS

- ◆ DaviMazel Tov to Leon & Dani Shrago on the birth of their granddaughter - *Maneva & Harold Edelman*
- ◆ In honor of Rabbi Ari's great work on behalf of young people everywhere - *Michael & Karen Cohen*
- ◆ A speedy recovery to Brent Wine - *Lynne & Errol Saltzman*
- ◆ Condolences on the loss of Madeline Katzman - *Bette & Jack Kozlen, Slosburg Family Charitable Trust*
- ◆ Condolences on the loss of Sara Masters - *Sally Wintroub*
- ◆ In appreciation of the hospitality to our son, Ezra, and his family - *Sherry & Larry Shapiro*
- ◆ Condolences on the loss of Ilene Pachman - *Lourdes Secola, Anne & Ed Joseph, Mort Glass, Beth Cohen & Harry Berman, Marty & Iris Ricks, David & Janet Kohll, Steve Riekes, Ann Moskovits, Marji Jones, Carole Langman, Joe & Maxine Kirshenbaum, Harry & Kathy Weiner*
- ◆ Happy Chanukah to Beth Israel - *Janet Brewster*
- ◆ Happy Birthday to Rabbi Ari - *Lloyd & Debra Roitstein, Lourdes Secola*
- ◆ A donation for those who are in need - *Lance Olson*
- ◆ Speedy recovery to Aaron Kurtzman - *Jordana Kurtzman*
- ◆ Happy Birthday to Jordana Kurtzman, Annette Fettman, and Rabbi Ari - *Patricia Newman*
- ◆ Happy Chanukah to the Leon and Dani Shrago, Jack and Helene Shrago, the Weiner family, the Abramovich family, and the Dembitzer family - *Patricia Newman*
- ◆ Happy Anniversary to Leon & Dani Shrago, Debbie & Ron Powers, and Jake & Susie Besser - *Patricia Newman*
- ◆ Mazel Tov on Crystal Epstein's graduation - *Lourdes Secola*
- ◆ Happy Birthday to Steve & Marilyn Tipp - *Lourdes Secola*
- ◆ In honor of Lloyd & Debbie Roitstein's Beth Israel membership - *Lourdes Secola*
- ◆ Happy 70th anniversary to Zena & Bennet Fishbain - *Mary Sue & Alex Grossman, Jack & Bette Kozlen, Susie & Pacey Shyken*
- ◆ Speedy recovery to Bob Mattly - *Mary Sue Grossman*
- ◆ In appreciation for Beth Israel's hospitality - *Ezra Shapiro & Family*
- ◆ For those in need - *Sissy Silber*
- ◆ Mazel Tov to Noah Shrago on his Bar Mitzvah - *David & Janet Kohll & Family*

YAHRZEITS

- ◆ Joseph Weinroth - *Ann Moskovits*
- ◆ Ben Rifkin - *Helen Rifkin*
- ◆ Margaret Handler - *Helen Rifkin*
- ◆ Rose Sehonbrun - *Helen Rifkin*
- ◆ Abraham Schloff - *Harriet Fisher*
- ◆ Yosef & Jeannie Tucker - *Jane Pirotin*
- ◆ Paul & Isabelle Pirotin - *Jane Pirotin*
- ◆ Margie Alperson - *Carol Porter*
- ◆ Harry Sidman - *Howard Kaiman*
- ◆ Sol Joseph - *Ed & Anne Joseph*
- ◆ Sarah Diamond - *Jack Diamond*
- ◆ Leon Wintroub - *Sally Wintroub*
- ◆ Margie Alperson - *Sally Wintroub*
- ◆ Ethel Mogil - *Patricia Mogil*
- ◆ Sam Bloom - *Sheila Moravec*
- ◆ Paula Amster - *Fred & Rita Amster*
- ◆ Lilly Fedman - *Linda & Mark Abrahamson*
- ◆ Sam Bloom - *Dick Fellman*
- ◆ Louis Katelman - *Sissy Silber*
- ◆ Getzel Golomb - *Mary Sue & Alex Grossman*
- ◆ Sadye Glass - *Morton Glass*
- ◆ Bernice Gerber - *Debbie & Ron Powers*
- ◆ Anne "Jan" Katzman - *Julee Katzman*
- ◆ Ann Epstein - *Sidney & Maureen Rosenblatt*
- ◆ Harvey Lipsman - *Marcia Lipsman*
- ◆ Bernice Magid - *Bernard Magid*
- ◆ Oscar Giller - *Ron & Kaye Giller*



A wonderful way to remember your loved ones is with a memorial plaque installed in the alcoves at the back of the sanctuary. The price of a plaque, which include your loved ones name and yahrzeit date in both English and Hebrew, is \$400. Contact Mary Sue Grossman for more information.

Beth Israel Synagogue
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Beth Israel Synagogue is a member of the
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

«Bulletin Mailing List» «F2»
«Jan-18»
«F4», «F5» «F6»

SERVICE SCHEDULE JANUARY 2017

Shacharit Schedule

Regular Weekday - 7:00 a.m

9:00 a.m. - Shabbat, Sunday & Holidays

Friday Night Mincha, Maariv, Kabbalat Shabbat

See schedule below

CANDLE LIGHTING AND HAVDALAH TIMES

Parsha Shemot - Jan 5 & 6

4:52 pm	Candle Lighting
4:35 pm	Mincha/Seudah Shlishit
5:57 pm	Havdalah

Shabbat Mevarchim

Parsha Vaera - Jan 12 & 13

4:59 pm	Candle Lighting
4:45 pm	Mincha/Seudah Shlishit
6:03 pm	Havdalah

Parsha Bo - Jan 19 & 20

5:07 pm	Candle Lighting
4:50 pm	Mincha/Seudah Shlishit
6:11 pm	Havdalah

Parsha Beshalach - Jan 26 & 27

5:15 pm	Candle Lighting
5:00 pm	Mincha/Seudah Shlishit
6:19 pm	Havdalah

REMINDER! To assure the scheduling of mincha/maariv minyan times in advance, please contact the office by the Wednesday of the week before the date. This allows the synagogue to include those times in the weekly schedule and also allow minyan attendees to adjust their schedules accordingly.