



## **Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, *Rabbi***

This month we end the book of “Breishit” 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 building our nation in Israel. Similarly, although Omaha is second best, and there is so much to learn from our Nebraskan 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. At Beth Israel we offer many different learning opportunities to be able to appreciate and learn from the world we live in and the time we live in. Deepen your understanding, enrich your connection.

Rabbi Ari

## **Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, *Visiting Scholar***

This year, on January 21th, we will be celebrating Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for the Trees. Halachically, this day is the cut-off point for tithing fruits, which requires counting the age of the tree and its fruits. The Talmud explains that by Tu B'Shevat, most of the winter's rain has fallen (in Israel), and this is the time when starts the process of Chanata - the beginning phase of the fruit's development, which occurs shortly after the tree's blossoming.

When looking at the trees in Israel on Tu B'Shevat, there is nothing to see. The flowers are mostly gone, and there are no fruits yet. So, why are we celebrating?

Tu B'Shevat is the holiday of the process. We recognize that not only achievements should be celebrated, not only the fruits, but also the process that leads to them. The early stages, when there is nothing to see, we know that deep inside of us something good is happening. The fruits are in the making – the Chanata – this is when we need to celebrate the most, to be happy for being part of a process of growth.

Rabbi Shlomo

### ***Tu B'Shevat***



January 21, 2019

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## BETH ISRAEL STAFF

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Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich  
Visiting Scholar

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Kaitlin Maher  
Administrative Assistant

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**The next  
Board of Commissioners  
meeting will be held on  
January 9 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

*(includes Todah Raba's for November 19 through December.)*

...to Gregory Kogan for his donation of grape juice and gefilte fish.

...to Lauren Tam, Hunter Tam, and Faige Jeidel for working several hours in the Children's Room organizing and cleaning out broken items. They will be developing an action plan for a proposed renovation of the room.

...to Linda Neumann-Potash for running another Pampered Chef fund-raiser.

...to Jonathan & Stacy Rockman for sponsoring the Week of Learning December 1-7.

...to Faige and Yaakov Jeidel to coordinating the NCSY Shabbaton; to Yaakov & Faige Jeidel, Yoni & Liora Hershkowitz, Rabbi Ari & Laura Dembitzer, Matt & Stephanie Beneda, Rabbi Shlomo & Hodaya Abramowitz, Harry & Kathy Weiner, Leon & Dani Shrago, Andy & Bracha Goldsweig, Harry Berman & Beth Cohen, for hosting guests; to Brad Berman and Eli Lopez for serving as techies; to Bruce & Cindy Goldberg, in honor of the anniversary of Adam and Jennifer Goldberg, Shirley & David Goodman, Fred Weiss, Donald Gerber, Maneva & Harold Edelman, in honor of the yahrzeit of Maneva's father; and Josh and Anna Priluck for sponsoring the Shabbaton.

...to Jack & Helene Shrago for sponsoring the Week of Learning December 8-14.

...to Harold & Maneva Ruth Edelman for sponsoring December 8 Shabbos Sheet in honor and appreciation of Rabbi Ari and Rabbi Shlomo.

...to those who sponsored this year's Chanukah Carnival: Joel & Conny Alpers, Beth Cohen & Harry Berman, Sharon & Jeff Kirshenbaum, Bette & Jack Kozlen, Julee Katzman, Kohll's Pharmacy & Healthcare, Linda Neumann-Potash & Bruce Potash, Nancy Rampey Biniamow, Susie & Paul Shyken. Helene & Jack Shrago, and Fred Weiss. Thanks also to Rabbi Shlomo, Faige Jeidel, and Yaakov Jeidel for planning and coordinating the event. And thank you to the many volunteers, including the majority of Beth Israel's awesome teens for running the games and helping with many other tasks.

...to Yaakov & Faige Jeidel for sponsoring the Week of Learning December 15-21.

...to Mary & Iris Ricks for sponsoring the December 15 Kiddish.

...to Howie Gendelman & Bonnie Block for sponsoring the Week of Learning December 22-28

...to Helene Shrago, Melissa Shrago, Ethan and Noah, Linda Neumann-Potash, and Sarah and Jenna potash for sponsoring the December 22 kiddush lunch. In honor of Michael Shrago's 50th birthday and Bruce Potash's 65th birthday.

...to for Michael & Karen Cohen sponsoring the Week of Learning December 29-January 4 in memory of Helen Manheimer.

...to Mary Sue Grossman for sponsoring the Shabbos Sheet for December 29- January 4.

...to the sponsors of the December Simcha Kiddush. *Birthdays* - Matan Shapiro, Hodaya Abramovich, Ari Kohen, Bruce Potash, Mario Lopez, Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, Michael Shrago, Annette Fettman, Audrey Rose Walz, Noah Shrago, David Silver, Sima Denenberg, Adam Gendelman; *Anniversaries* - Leo & Annette Fettman, Debbie & Ron Powers, Bennett & Zena Fishbain, Ed & Anne Joseph, Leon & Dani Shrago, Dr & Mrs. Morris Roitstein; *Retirement* - Mary Sue Grossman; birth of granddaughter of Alex & Mary Sue Grossman.

...to Dani Shrago for handling shopping, to Linda Potash, Helene Shrago, Jordana Kurtzman, Linda Neumann-Potash and other volunteers to helping with kiddush, Seudah Shlishit, and other kitchen duties



...Mary Sue and Alex Grossman on the birth of their granddaughter Nora Miriam, daughter of Sarah and David Lopez.

**Have a special simcha in your family?  
Call the office so we can share your good news!**



## A WARM BETH ISRAEL WELCOME, TO NATE SHAPIRO!

Toba Cohen-Dunning and the Beth Israel Board of Commissioners are pleased to announce Nate Shapiro is joining the Beth Israel team as the new Executive Director. Nate is replacing Mary Sue Grossman who retired on December 31st.

Nate is currently serving as the Director of Development for the Jewish Federation of Omaha. He has a strong background in development, administration, fundraising, and programming. He has also worked for United Way of the Midlands. Nate is an active volunteer in the Omaha Chamber of Commerce where he has been involved in young leadership development. Nate is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and served as a Lone Soldier in the Israel Defense Force. He comes to this position highly recommended for his outstanding skills, dedication and enthusiasm. Nate and his wife, Carly, have been married for two years. Nate's first official day will be January 14th.

*Our coat room has become a bit over populated for a wide variety of treasures. Please stop by and pick up your belongings or, if it is something you frequently use while at the synagogue, please label. All remaining items will be donated at the end of the month. THANK YOU!*



## Jewish Federation of Omaha Scholarship Opportunities

The generosity of the community provides a variety of funding sources are available to Omaha's Jewish families to assist in meeting the financial challenges of programs for their children. Scholarships and grants exist for residential camp, JCC summer camp, Israel programs, the Pennie Z. Davis Child Development Center, Friedel Jewish Academy, and youth group activities plus undergraduate, graduate, vocational, technical, professional or yeshiva studies. Visit the [jewishomaha.org](http://jewishomaha.org) for application information. Most applications are due **March 1, 2019**.



# HEAVEN AND AFTERLIFE IN JUDAISM

WITH RABBI SHLOMO

Sunday, January 6th, 2019

29th of Tevet, 5779

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Sunday, January 13th, 2019

7th of Shevat, 5779

10:00 - 11:00 AM

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE



[Sabramovich@orthodoxomaha.org](mailto:Sabramovich@orthodoxomaha.org)



# 📷 Photo Gallery 📷



Omaha/ Kansas City  
NCSY Shabbaton  
rocked the house!



The hard-working Omaha NCSY  
board members



Ella Seegal with her beautiful  
menorah made at the JYE BI  
menorah building workshop,  
compliments of Home Depot.



The Chanukah Carnival was great afternoon of fun.



Thanks to the many great sponsors of the  
Chanukah Carnival!

( See page 2 for the names of the sponsors  
of the carnival plus those who sponsored the  
Omaha/ Kansas City NCSY Shabbaton.)



*The Jewish Youth Experience at Beth Israel - JYE BI is based on the goal of developing passionate and knowledgeable Jews in a fun, content-based environment. Giving kids the building blocks of Torah*

*Judaism and showing the way to make those a part of their daily lives will be found throughout the JYE BI's many activities.*

### SHABBAT

#### 10:30-11:15am - Classes for all ages

3-6 years old - *Middot Class* with Dr. Gendelman in the Social Hall (If no class is held, children go to baby-sitting room or with parents)

7-11 years old - *Parsha Pearls* with Mr. Gerber in the Beit Midrash (Chapel) and with Rabbi Moshe in the Social Hall

12-17 years old - *Shmooz'n Torah* with Faige Jeidel in the Social Hall

Matmidim with Mr. Shrago in the Social Hall

Approximately 12pm, following kiddush - *Teen Class* with Rabbi Ari his office

### SUNDAY

#### 10:00-11:30am - K through 6th Grades

Divided into two groups, Faige Jeidel and Sarah Abrahamson will lead the students to deepen their Jewish knowledge and gain a stronger understanding and appreciation for Jewish history, culture, and halacha. This year, the older group will be focusing on Shabbat. They will learn the answers to questions such as what is Shabbat, how do we celebrate Shabbat, what does it mean to celebrate Shabbat, and what are the practical laws that surround it? The younger group has a curriculum structured around the weekly Parsha and learning all the important brachot.

### TUESDAY

#### Teen Programming

Every Monday from 4:30-5:30pm, teens - 7-12 graders, will meet with Yakkov Jeidel, studying *The Path of the Just*. Once a month the teens will have a fun outing and/or chesed activity.

#### Tot Programming/PJ Library

Special programs, in collaboration with PJ Library Omaha, will take place several times during the year.

**Sunday January 6**, 10-11:30am, at Friedel Jewish Academy, A Family Day of Caring. Ages 5 and under

**Sunday, April 7**, 10:30-11:30am, at Beth Israel, PJ Library for Passover. Ages 5 and under

**Wednesday May 8**, 5-7pm, at the JCC, PJ Library at the Yom Ha'atzmaut Carnival

**Sunday June 23**, at Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium, PJ Library Day at the Zoo. Time to be determined.

Ages 0-12 years.

## 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. In addition to the sponsor indicated reason, each Week of Learning sponsorship will be "in the merit of a complete recovery for those who are ill and need a recovery in our community and in the entire nation of Israel."*  
**A sponsorship is just \$100. Contact the office to schedule.**

### Saturday

Approximately 20 mins before Mincha  
*Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion*

### Sunday

10:00 a.m.

Jan 6 & 13 - *Heaven & Afterlife in Judaism* - Rabbi Shlomo

Feb 3 & 10 - *Jews and Money - Jewish Attitudes to Wealth* - Yosef Seigel

Mar 10 & 17 - *Purim - the Holiest Day of the Year?* - Rabbi Ari

Apr 7 & 14 - *Practical & Spiritual Guide for Passover* - Yosef Seigel

May 5 & 12 - *Kabbalah & Mysticism* - Rabbi Shlomo

Jun 2 - *What is So Special About Jerusalem?* - Rabbi Ari

### Tuesday

3:00 p.m.

*Torah Tuesday with Rabbi Ari*

### Thursday

9:30 a.m. - *Connecting with Our Faith* with Rabbi Ari

12 noon - *Jewish Ethics* with Rabbi Shlomo @ UNMC

### Friday

11:15 a.m. - *Friday Learning Series @ Kripke Library*  
Watch Jewish Press and weekly emails for dates and topics

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 schedule a time.

Shopping on Amazon?

Start by clicking the Amazon link at

orthodoxomaha.org.

Every purchase you make on Amazon that begins on the Beth Israel website returns a percentage of the purchase to the synagogue. Link found on the bottom right of the synagogue home page.





## 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](mailto:bethisrael@orthodoxomaha.org), submit via the website at [www.orthodoxomaha.org](http://www.orthodoxomaha.org) or call the synagogue office.

*For additional information on supporting Beth Israel, please contact the synagogue office.*

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

### BIRTHDAYS

|                         |        |                    |        |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|
| Milton Kleinberg        | Jan 01 | Jeff Kirshenbaum   | Jan 12 |
| Orion Shnayder          | Jan 02 | Shoshy Susman      | Jan 12 |
| Rose Rosenberg          | Jan 03 | Alyssa Kirshenbaum | Jan 13 |
| Ben Giller              | Jan 04 | Helene Lohman      | Jan 13 |
| Ben Lohman              | Jan 04 | Joshua Polack      | Jan 14 |
| Daniel Denenberg        | Jan 04 | Max Winer          | Jan 15 |
| Sasha Denenberg         | Jan 05 | Eva Stein          | Jan 18 |
| Eric Dunning            | Jan 06 | Alan Binbamow      | Jan 18 |
| Ed Joseph               | Jan 08 | Helen Kay          | Jan 18 |
| Stanton "Ross" Davidson | Jan 08 | Leo Kohll          | Jan 20 |
| Liora Shapiro           | Jan 09 | David Adler        | Jan 21 |
| Morton Glass            | Jan 10 | Eleanor Dunning    | Jan 27 |
| Stacey Rockman          | Jan 10 | Nikki Tindall      | Jan 28 |
| Garbor Obora-Petro      | Jan 11 | Scherry Linsman    | Jan 30 |

### ANNIVERSARIES

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Alex & Mary Sue Grossman | Jan 16 |
| Moshe & Sarah Rosenblatt | Jan 27 |



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

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

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ☆ Leslie Seigel           | ☆ Frances S. "Chickie" Gilinsky |
| ☆ Helen Manheimer         | ☆ Jane M Diesen                 |
| ☆ Sanford "Sandy" Cohn    | ☆ Beverly K. Seldin             |
| ☆ April DePorte           | ☆ Stanley E. Perlmeter          |
| ☆ Marci Brookstein Mainus |                                 |
| ☆ Irwin Goldenberg        |                                 |
| ☆ Betty Rubin             |                                 |

### Keeping Kosher in Omaha - Stay in the Know!

- Like the Kosher Omaha Facebook page on Facebook and keep up-to-date on the latest kosher finds in Omaha.
- Many thanks to Amy Reynolds and Ben Shapiro for their non-profit venture, Affordable Kosher Meats. A variety of meats - ground beef, briskets, hot dogs, specialty packaged items, steaks, and much more. For more information email Ben and Amy at [affordablekoshermeats@cox.net](mailto:affordablekoshermeats@cox.net).
- Shop the Jerusalem Grocery at 2455 S 120 St for many Israeli and kosher products.
- Have a list of acceptable kosher symbols available at any time on your phone. Download the CRC Kosher Guide app for a handy and up-to-date reference.
- Check out the "Kosher Food" page under the "Community" tab at [orthodoxomaha.org](http://orthodoxomaha.org)

## CONTRIBUTIONS

*Beth Israel acknowledges, with sincere thanks, the following contributions made from November 19 through December 28. Please contact the office with any questions.*

### DONATIONS

#### GENERAL DONATIONS

In honor of the birthday of Rabbi Ari Dembitzer - *Harold & Maneva Edleman, Debbie & Lloyd Roitstein*  
 In honor of the birthday of Bruce Potash - *Dani & Leon Shrago*  
 In Honor of the birthday of Michael Shrago - *Iris & Martin Ricks, Jan & Phil Wayne*  
 In honor of the retirement of Mary Sue Grossman - *Barb Widman*  
 In memory of Anna Wiesman - *Paul & Susan Shyken, Lloyd & Debbie Roitstein*  
 In memory of Leslie Seigel - *Paul & Susan Shyken, Dani & Leon Shrago, Jack & Helene Shrago, Lynne & Errol Saltzman, Andy & Bracha Goldsweig, Mary Sue & Alex Grossman, Julee Katzman, Donald Gerber*

In memory of Sandy Cohn - *Alex & Mary Sue Grossman*  
 In memory of Helen Manheimer - *Shiela Tomps, Esther Silver, Marilyn & Steve Tipp*  
 In memory of Andy Cohn - *Toba Cohen-Dunning*

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Helen Manheimer - *Alys Kremer & Arthur Grossman*  
 Speedy recovery to Mary Sue Grossman - *Alex Grossman*  
 For the NCSY Shabbaton - *Alex Grossman*  
 In appreciation of Beth Israel - *Bruce & Bernice Rivkin, Dina & Dina Amir, Neri Gerraide, Jason Kaplan, Tibor Neumann, Bob Eisenberg, Gregory Kogan*

### YAHREIT DONATIONS

- ♦ Louis Katelman - *Sissy Silber*
- ♦ Margaret Handler - *Helen Rifkin*
- ♦ Ben Rifkin - *Helen Rifkin*
- ♦ Bessie Himelbloom - *Richard Fellman*
- ♦ Meryer Ferer - *William & Nancy Ferer*
- ♦ Frances Ferer - *William & Nancy Ferer*
- ♦ Sadye Glass - *Morton Glass*
- ♦ Esther Erlich - *Richard Erlich, Abe Erlich, & Patty Erlich*
- ♦ Sylvia Kaiman - *Jerry, Sherry, & Beth Kaiman*
- ♦ Oscar Giller - *Ron & Kaye Giller*
- ♦ Leah Adelstein - *Richard Fellman*
- ♦ Sam Bloom - *Richard Fellman*
- ♦ Ann Epstein - *Sidney & Maureen Rosenblatt*
- ♦ Getzel Golomb - *Alex & Mary Sue Grossman*
- ♦ Leonard "Buddy" Goldstein - *Donald & Andi Goldstein*
- ♦ Lillian Noodell - *David & Shirley Goodman*
- ♦ Charles Gendler - *Sally Wintroub*

- ♦ Annette Ostrowsky - *Shiela Tomps*
- ♦ Paula Amster - *Fred & Rita Amster*
- ♦ Harvey Lipsman - *Marcia Lipsman*
- ♦ Michael Benjamin Klein - *Kim Klein-Dickerson*
- ♦ Talia Stella Klein - *Kim Klein Dickerson*
- ♦ Bernice Gerber - *Debbie & Ron Powers*
- ♦ Sam Bloom - *Sheila Moravec*
- ♦ Lilly Fedman - *Linda & Mark Abrahamson*
- ♦ Bernice Magid - *Bernard Magid*
- ♦ Ann Lehman - *Jerry & Arlene Lehman*
- ♦ Rose Ratner - *Hedy Ratner*
- ♦ Simon Kasowitz - *Jack & Mindell Diamond*
- ♦ Sarah Diamond - *Jack & Mindell Diamond*
- ♦ Fagie Hinda Diamond - *Jack & Mindell Diamond*
- ♦ Moishe Markman Family - *Jack & Mindell Diamond*
- ♦ The Markman Family - *Jack & Mindell Diamond*
- ♦ Meilach Katzman - *Susan Katzman*

### UPCOMING HAPPENINGS AT BETH ISRAEL



Jan 9 - Board Meeting  
 Jan 13 - *Heaven and Afterlife in Judaism* with Rabbi Shlomo  
 Jan 19 - Kiddush Sponsored by Joel & Cony Alperson  
 Jan 20 - Tu B'Shevat Seder  
 Jan 21 - Tu B'Shevat  
 Jan 26 - January Simcha Kiddush



Feb 5 - Rosh Chodesh  
 Feb 10 - Mitzvah Fair  
 Feb 13 - Board Meeting  
 Feb 16 - February Simcha Kiddush

***Have a suggestion for the Beth Israel Programming Committee? Contact Julee Katzman, Programming Committee Chair***



**Beth Israel Synagogue**  
**12604 Pacific Street**  
**Omaha, NE 68154**

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## SERVICE SCHEDULE JANUARY 2019

### Shacharit Schedule

Regular Weekday - 7:00 a.m - 9:00 a.m. - Shabbat, Sunday & Holidays

### Sunday - Thursday Mincha/Maariv

Refer to weekly email or [orthodoxomaha.org](http://orthodoxomaha.org). Services typically held at Rose Blumkin Jewish Home

### Friday Night Mincha, Maariv, Kabbalat Shabbat

See schedule below

## CANDLE LIGHTING AND HAVDALAH TIMES

### Parshat Va'era - Jan 4-5

4:51 pm Candle Lighting  
 4:35 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit  
 5:56 pm Havdalah

### Parshat Bo - Jan 11-12

4:58 pm Candle Lighting  
 4:40 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit  
 6:02 pm Havdalah

### Parshat Beshalach - Jan 18-19

5:06 pm Candle Lighting  
 4:50 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit  
 6:10 pm Havdalah

### Parshat Yitro - Jan 25-26

5:14 pm Candle Lighting  
 5:00 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit  
 6:18 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. Thank you.

