



Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, *Rabbi*

We celebrate Tu Beshvat this month. It is this day, that we celebrate nature, the beautiful world around us. It is a time we focus on the growth in our lives. Although in the cold Nebraska winter, it may be hard to see, it is a time that we focus on the seeds and sparks of growth soon to be blossoming. Although our lives may be cold and dark at times, we have the ability to hope and recognize the warmth around the corner.

Blessings for a month of growth and warmth, Rabbi Ari

Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, *Visiting Scholar*

This year, on the Jewish calendar, is a leap year, which means we have an additional month of Adar. The rabbis taught us that the creation of the Jewish calendar, and the sanctification of the month, was the first commandment given to the Jewish people as a nation, right before they left Egypt. What is so significant in this mitzvah, that it was chosen to be the first?

We see in the Torah and the Prophets that when a new king arrives, the people start to count the years from his reign. The same happened with the people of Israel: when a new nation was born, a new calendar was established. This can teach us about the importance of the Jewish calendar. As part of our Jewish identity and our Jewish pride, we should learn to use our own calendar: to celebrate our Hebrew birthday, be aware of the current Hebrew date. Beyond that there is a lot to learn about the meaning of the Jewish calendar and the meaning of each month, so we can live the true spirit of time.

Rabbi Shlomo



* See Translation
on Pg 7

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BETH ISRAEL STAFF

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Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich
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Administrative Assistant

Jay Benton
Housekeeping

Leo Fettman
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***The next
Board of Commissioners
meeting will be held on
February 13 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 December 30th through January 26.)

...to for Beth Cohen, Harry Berman, and family sponsoring the Week of Learning for the week of January 5th.

...to Susan Katzman for sponsoring the January 5th Shabbos Sheet.

...to Linda and Bruce Potash for sponsoring the Week of Learning for the week of January 12th.

...to the sponsors of the January Simcha Kiddush. Birthdays - Michael Shnayder, Orion Shnayder, Rose Rosenberg, Daniel Denenberg, Sasha Denenberg, Eric Dunning, Eleanor Dunning, Ed Joseph, Jeff Kirshenbaum, Alyssa Kirshenbaum, Shoshy Susman, Helene Lohman, Alan Biniamow, Leo Kohll; Maneva Ruth & Harold Edelman in loving memory of Ruth's mother.

...to Paul and Susie Shyken for sponsoring the Week of Learning for the week of January 19th.

...to the sponsors of the Tu Bishvat Seder David & Janet Kohll in memory of our dear friend, Alan Stoler, Maneva Ruth & Harold Edelman in memory of Maneva's brother Gene Ruppe, and Beth Israel in memory of Moshe & Hadar Nachman's good friend Hadas Bat Yaakov.

...to Joel & Conny Alpers for sponsoring the January 19th kiddush lunch in honor of the first birthday of Rachel, Hannah, David, and Aaron

...to Susan Katzman for sponsoring the January 19th Shabbos sheet.

...to Michael & Melissa Shrago for sponsoring the Week of Learning for the week of January 26th.

...to Zevi and Devora Friedman for sponsoring the January 26th kiddush lunch.

...to David & Janet Kohll and Beth Cohen & Harry Berman for sponsoring the January 26th Shabbos sheet.



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 March 1, 2019. THANK YOU!



UPCOMING HAPPENINGS AT BETH ISRAEL



- Feb 3 - *Jews and Money - Jewish Attitudes to Wealth* with Yosef Seigel
- Feb 5 - Rosh Chodesh
- Feb 10 - *Jews and Money - Jewish Attitudes to Wealth* with Yosef Seigel
- Feb 10 - Mitzvah Faira
- Feb 10 - Israeli Cooking Workshop
- Feb 13 - Board Meeting
- Feb 16 - Kiddush Sponsored by Alan & Brigitte Kohll
- Feb 23 - February Simcha Kiddush



- Mar 2 - Shabbat Shekalim
- Mar 7 - Rosh Chodesh
- Mar 7-10 - Project Dreamland 3.0
- Mar 10 - *Purim - The Holiest Day of the Year?* With Rabbi Ari
- Mar 13 - Board Meeting
- Mar 16 - Shabbat Zachor
- Mar 16 - Simcha Kiddush
- Mar 17 - *Purim - The Holiest Day of the Year?* with Rabbi Ari
- Mar 20 - Fast of Esther
- Mar 20 - Megillah Reading
- Mar 21 - Purim
- Mar 22 - Shushan Purim
- Mar 30 - Shabbat Parah

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

How many Executive Directors of an orthodox synagogue does it take to change a light bulb?

Come to Rabbi Ari's parsha class on Saturday to get the answer!



In the meantime, I wanted to address you, Team Beth Israel, directly. First and foremost, I want to thank you for putting your trust in me to fill Mary Sue Grossman's (figuratively) very large shoes as the executive director of Beth Israel. Secondly, I want to thank you for being a warm, welcoming, and supportive community. I especially want to thank Maneva and Harold Edelman for donating to Beth Israel in honor of my new position here. I assure you that I am very honored!

Although I have been only on the job for roughly two weeks, I am blown away by the incredible people that make this synagogue run. You have a great and diverse squad of professionals here. Please join me in acknowledging and thanking Rabbi Ari Dembitzer, Rabbi Shlomo Abromovich, Kaitlin Maher, Yaakov and Faige Jeidel, Jay Benton, Ruthe Starlin, Marge Williams, Nancy Mattly, and Ann Guy, for all the work that they put into making this shul Omaha's premier home for Orthodox Judaism.

I could go on and on about Mary Sue Grossman, but I'll keep it short and sweet by thanking her for coming out of her retirement and helping me to train me to serve you.

A big "Thank You" goes out to the entire Board of Commissioners for volunteering their time to the community, and an extra special thank you goes out to Jeff Kirshenbaum, Julee Katzman, Beth Cohen, and Toba Cohen-Dunning, for being with me at every step of the way.

I am here to serve, so I invite you to feel free to contact me with any ideas, complaints, suggestions, observations, etc. I can't promise to do everything that everyone thinks we should do, but I can promise that I'll, at the very least, listen.

Contact me at nshapiro@orthodoxomaha.org or give the office a call: (402) 556-6288

📷 Photo Gallery 📷



NCSY Shabbat Shabang at Moylan Iceplex

JYE BI works together to solve puzzles and Escape (room) from Egypt



A beautiful turnout at the Brachot Party honoring Dani Shrago



The cold doesn't stop the congregants at Beth Israel from learning about Heaven and Afterlife from Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich



Thanks to the many great sponsors of the Tu Bishvat Seder!



(See page 2 for the names of the sponsors of the Tu Bishvat Seder)



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, 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.

Feb 3 & 10 - *Jews and Money - Jewish Attitudes towards 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, submit via the website at 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

Joshua Priluck	Feb 01	Zena Fishbain	Feb 22
Darby Smith	Feb 08	Hannah Stein	Feb 22
Carl Riekes	Feb 10	Vera Bernstein	Feb 24
Samuel Cemaj	Feb 11	Sadie Tam	Feb 24
Jon Meyers	Feb 12	Bonnie Bloch	Feb 25
Paulette Flatowicz	Feb 13	Jenna Gerber	Feb 25
Joe Kirshenbaum	Feb 17	Errol Saltzman	Feb 25
Marina Sadofsky	Feb 17	David Atri	Feb 26
Kaye Giller	Feb 19	Phil Wolf	Feb 26
Jane Fishkin	Feb 20	Abby Kohll	Feb 27
Richard Gurevich	Feb 20	Anna Pitman-Kogan	Feb 27
Malachi Abramovich	Feb 21	Sherry Taxman	Feb 27
Hersz Flatowicz	Feb 21	Richard Reinblatt	Feb 28
David Kay	Feb 21	Adam Rich	Feb 28
Sara Kohen	Feb 21		

ANNIVERSARIES

Bruce & Linda Potash	Feb 2
Alan & Brigitte Kohll	Feb 3
Isaac & Helena Davidson	Feb 18
Phil & Nancy Wolf	Feb 19
Yaakov & Faige Jeidel	Feb 22
Jack & Bette Kozlen	Feb 28

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.
- 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

CONTRIBUTIONS

Beth Israel acknowledges, with sincere thanks, the following contributions made from December 29 through January 24. Please contact the office with any questions.

DONATIONS

GENERAL DONATIONS

In Honor of Executive Director Mary Sue Grossman's service - *Aviva Segall*
Speedy Recovery of Rabbi Shlomo - *Maneva Ruth & Harold Edelman*
In honor of our new Executive Director Nate Shapiro - *Manena Ruth & Harold Edelman*
Speedy recovery of Harld Edelman - *Lloyd & Debbie Roitstein*
For the Speedy Recover of Sheryl Friedman - *Lynne Saltzman*
In appreciation of Beth Israel - *Bernard Backer, Alan Potash*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Gene Ruppe - *Maneva Ruth & Harold Edelman*
In honor of Joel & Conny Alperson's children's first birthday Hannah, Rachel, David, and Aaron - *Lourdes Secola*
In appreciation of Beth Israel - *Stephen Rose, Alan Biniamow & Nancy Rampey Biniamow*

YAHARZEIT DONATIONS

- ♦ Abe Kozlen - *Jack & Bette Kozlen*
- ♦ Sara Segelman Redman - *Jack & Bette Kozlen*
- ♦ Louis Segelman - *Jack & Bette Kozlen*
- ♦ Miriam Ruppe - *Harold & Manevea Ruth Edelman*
- ♦ Sylvia Malvon - *Errol & Lynne Saltzman*
- ♦ Ida Rubin - *Mary Sue & Alex Grossman*
- ♦ Gabor Grossman - *Mary Sue & Alex Grossman*
- ♦ Johanna Kahn - *Hugo Kahn*
- ♦ Ethel Rosenstein - *Janet Rosenstein & Marty Rosenstein*
- ♦ Norman Silver - *Esther Silver*
- ♦ Max Sherman - *Leo & Annette Fettman*
- ♦ Mina Greenbaum - *Leo Greenbaum*
- ♦ Sam Zweiback - *Joe & Maxine Kirshenbaum*
- ♦ Marsha Bessinger - *Joe & Maxine Kirshenbaum*
- ♦ Ben Himelbloom - *Brent Bloom*
- ♦ Leah Adelstein - *Brent Bloom*
- ♦ Meta Cohen - *Marilyn Ivers*
- ♦ Rose Lee Cohen - *Marilyn Ivers*
- ♦ Ida Parilman - *Vera Lewis*
- ♦ Miriam Bogot - *Rose Schupack*
- ♦ Ben Himelbloom - *Richard Fellman*



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 betokhshe'ar avelei Tziyon vi'Yerushalayim



Marvin J. Azriel ☆ Frederick Arthur Bromley ☆ Frederick (Fritz) S. Cassman



Adar is here be happy!



Beth Israel Synagogue
12604 Pacific Street
Omaha, NE 68154

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«F3», «F4» «F5»

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. Services typically held at Rose Blumkin Jewish Home

Friday Night Mincha, Maariv, Kabbalat Shabbat

See schedule below

CANDLE LIGHTING AND HAVDALAH TIMES

Parshat Mishpatim - Feb 1-2

5:23 pm Candle Lighting
 5:05 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit
 6:26 pm Havdalah

Parshat Terumah - Feb 8-9

5:32 pm Candle Lighting
 5:15 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit
 6:34 pm Havdalah

Parshat Tetzaveh - Feb 15-16

5:40 pm Candle Lighting
 5:25 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit
 6:42 pm Havdalah

Parshat Ki Tisa - Feb 22-23

5:49 pm Candle Lighting
 5:35 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit
 6:50 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.

