



# The Beth Israel Bulletin

A Publication of Beth Israel Synagogue

April 2019 ~ Adar II/Nisan 5779



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

Time is flying by and we are fast approaching Pesach, the holiday of freedom and independence. True freedom and independence is when we are self-aware and know who we are and where we need to be. As your Rabbi, I view my role to lead our holy shul towards constant growth and a deeper identity. With this deeper and stronger sense of who we are, we will be able to pass the flame on for generations to come. May we be the best shul we can be.

Happy and Free Pesach to all,  
Rabbi Ari

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

Why do we eat Matzah on Passover? Many answers were given to this question, but the most surprising one is from the midrash that compares the Matzah to baby food. Anyone with young children knows that Matzah is not the best food for babies, so what is the meaning of this midrash?

The ingredients of the Matzah must be only flour and water. That makes the matzah the least materialistic food possible. On Passover, we, as a nation, were born. We are not able, yet, to deal with the physical world, without losing our spirituality and therefore we must start with eating Matzah.

The lesson we can take from this is that even though we believe in getting involved in the world and finding godliness everywhere, sometimes we need to take a break from the physical world and focus on strengthening our spirituality. Passover and the Seder, with all the learning and depth of this holiday, are a great opportunity to do so.

Rabbi Shlomo



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Beth Israel Synagogue  
12604 Pacific Street, Omaha NE 68154  
[www.orthodoxomaha.org](http://www.orthodoxomaha.org) / [bethisrael@orthodoxomaha.org](mailto:bethisrael@orthodoxomaha.org)  
(402) 556-6288

## **BETH ISRAEL STAFF**

Rabbi Ari Dembitzer  
Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich  
Visiting Scholar  
Nate Shapiro  
Executive Director  
Kaitlin Maher  
Administrative Assistant  
Jay Benton  
Housekeeping  
Leo Fettman  
Cantor Emeritus

## **Board of Commissioners**

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All past presidents

***The next  
Board of Commissioners  
meeting will be held on  
April 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**

*(includes Todah Raba’s for March 2 - March 23)*

...to Sarah Potash for sponsoring the Week of Learning for the week of March 2nd.  
...to John Berlowitz for sponsoring the March 2nd Kiddish.  
...to everyone who helped tidy up the Coat room.  
...to Fred Weiss for sponsoring the Week of Learning for the week of March 9th.  
...to Rick Eirenberg for sponsoring the Week of Learning for the week of March 16th.  
... to those who made Project Dreamland possible by sponsoring: Staenberg Family Foundation Anything Grant, Bruce & Cindy Goldberg, Michael & Karen Cohen, Harold & Maneva Ruth Edelman, Moshe Rosenblatt, Alan Biniamow & Nancy Rampey Biniamow, and Mr & Mrs Anonymous.  
...the families who have opened their homes for Project Dreamland: Harry & Kathy Weiner, Matt & Stephanie Beneda, Andrew & Bracha Goldsweig, Yaakov & Faige Jeidel, Rabbi Ari & Laura Dembitzer, and Rabbi Shlomo & Hodaya Abramovich.  
...to the drivers of Project Dreamland: Max Weiner, Eli Klinkowitz, and Rabbi Shlomo Abramovitch. Also to Kohlls Pharmacy for providing the transportation.  
...the NY Dreamland Directors: Eliyahu Katz and Penina Reznick.  
...to the NCSY teens for helping in the kitchen, hosting the Project Dreamland BBQ, and picking up those from the airport.  
...Jordana Kurtzman for donating material for Project Dreamland welcome bags, and for picking up and dropping off people to the airport.  
...to the participants of Jewish Women’s Renaissance Project led by Melissa Shrago and Karen Cohen for the help in planning Project Dreamland, baking challah and setting up the room for the Project Dreamland dinner.  
...to Kaitlin Maher, Yaakov Jeidel, Faige Jeidel, Rabbi Shlomo Abramovitch, and Rabbi Ari Dembitzer for all of their hard work making Project Dreamland a success.  
...to the Project Dreamland guests and counselors who inspired everyone with their tremendous spirit.  
...to the Shnyder family for the sponsored decor for the Project Dreamland Dinner.  
...to the sponsors of the March Simcha Kiddish. **Birthdays;** Aviva Arti, Eliyana Beneda, Jane Cohen, Leo Fettman, Dr. Howard Gendelman, Adam Goldberg, Jen Goldberg, Scott Goldberg, Max Goldberg, Alex Grossman, Lea Jeidel, Daniel Lev Kohen, Patricia Newman, Rachel Shyken, and Sally Wintroub. **Anniversaries;** Matt & Stephanie Beneda, Les & Helen Kay, Joe & Maxine Kirshenbaum, and Alan & Deborah Kricsfeld.  
...to Mordechai Lopez for sponsoring the Week of Learning for the week of March 23rd.  
...to the teens who helped bake hamentashen.  
...Rabbi Shlomo, and Moshe Nachman for all the Megillah readings.  
...to Jay Benton for making sure we had a clean shul for Purim.  
...to Fred Wies and Mordechai Lopez for providing the right “spirits” for Purim.  
...to Harry Weiner for managing the “spiritual” cart. (see pg 4)  
...to Yaakov Jeidel, Faige Jeidel and Kaitlin Maher for all the work they put in making Purim a wonderful success.  
...to Faige Jeidel for doing an amazing job managing the kitchen for Project Dreamland, Purim, and every meal and event in between.  
...to the wonderful kitchen staff Marge Williams, Nancy Mattly and Ruth Starlin for all the hard work through Project Dreamland, Purim and everything in between.  
...to those who volunteered in the kitchen for the ice cream social and Purim seuda: Shirly Banner, Linda Potash and Beth Cohen.  
...to Dani Shrago who continues to do the shopping every week for all the kitchen needs.

# Important Announcements

## Friedel Subsidies

The Board of Commissioners for Beth Israel has, at the recommendation of the Beth Israel Friedel Tuition Committee Board, voted to make some changes to the Friedel Jewish Academy Subsidies starting for the school year 2020-2021.

The goal of the Beth Israel Friedel Tuition Committee is to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding a financially sound, fair, and effective policy for helping member families pay Friedel Jewish Academy tuition.

- a. We propose to set an overall limit on tuition expenses at \$100,000 for each school year.
- b. Base tuition payment would be set at \$2,000 each year per student, available for the children of eligible members who wish to take advantage of this benefit. Any additional payment would be needs-based with limit of \$2,000 in additional payments per student. Thus, the maximum amount available from Beth Israel, per student, would be capped at \$4,000 each year. The needs-based payment would be available once the parents have first availed themselves of other sources of financial aid, such as the Jewish Federation of Omaha. There is no intent to deter anyone from enrolling in Friedel. The process for seeking financial aid would include a confidential request for a scholarship and the submission of proof of need based on the JFO model.
- c. Implementation of the new policy for currently eligible members would apply to the 2020-2021 school year. This will give families adequate time to adjust to the changes and make any necessary preparations. Once the new program is determined, it will apply to new members immediately.
- d. Eligible Members: Primary members. Dual primary members would also be eligible for the subsidy. Secondary and Gateway members would not be eligible. They must join as full members to take advantage of these benefits.
- e. There may be some grandfathering. For example, a current Gateway family would continue to receive Friedel benefits at the new reduced rate until the Gateway period expires. Following that period, the family would have to rollover their Gateway membership to a primary one.
- f. A scholarship committee should be formed following the Federation model with committee members being anonymous.

## Jewish Federation of Omaha Information Request

II. The Jewish Federation of Omaha (JFO) would like to continue to move forward with dashboarding and benchmarking initiatives with regards to the 2017 Community Study. To do so effectively, they need data from the synagogues to confirm the data currently in place.

Cont.

The JFO is requesting from us and the other Synagogues:

- a. Our Membership List – Names, Addresses, and Birthdates
- b. List of students involved in religious school, youth groups, and other programming
- c. B'nei Mitvah for past 5 years
- d. Births for the past 5 years
- e. Marriages performed by clergy in the past 5 years
- f. Deaths of congregants in the past 5 years

JFO has assured us that this information will not be used for any purpose other than data tracking. Out of respect for our members and their information, we wanted to give you the option to opt out of participating. If you would like your information not to be shared with JFO, **please contact our office and let us know by April 25, 2019.**

Shopping on Amazon?  
Start by clicking the  
Amazon link at  
[orthodoxomaha.org](http://orthodoxomaha.org).

**amazon.com**  


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.

## PASSOVER: What Does Real Freedom Mean?

**April 5 and 12 at 11:15 am**  
**Kripke Jewish Federation Library**  
**Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich**

Does freedom mean the right to choose your own way - to do whatever you want? What happens when the freedom of the individual conflicts with the freedom of the society, or with other values the society stands for?

We are committed to varied types of obligations: the state, the community, our family and also our faith and religion. How can these commitments be compatible with our yearning for freedom? Does responsibility conflict with freedom?

In these classes we will start with the story of Passover and use varied sources to get a better understanding of what real freedom is and how we might achieve it.



# 📷 Photo Gallery 📷



Project Dreamland takes a trip to the Henry Doorly Zoo!

First stop for Project Dreamland 3.0 Bagel Bin



Nobody wanted to escape Project Dreamland just this Escape room



The Amazing Arthur wowing the kids of Beth Israel at the Purim Party

JYE BI makes Hamantaschen for Purim



Harry Weiner wheeling around the "spiritual" cart!



Full house at our Groovy Disco Purim Party



*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.

Apr 14 - *Haggada: How to be Free* - Rabbi Ari

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.

Don't forget to check out the Beth Israel social media pages daily for great updates on the happenings at Beth Israel and some pretty awesome memes .

You can find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/orthodoxomaha/](http://www.facebook.com/orthodoxomaha/)

And on Instagram  
[@beth\\_israel\\_omaha](https://www.instagram.com/beth_israel_omaha)





## 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), or submit via the website at [www.orthodoxomaha.org](http://www.orthodoxomaha.org).

*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

Solomon Denenberg	Apr 5	Scott Susman	Apr 17
Bradley Berman	Apr 5	Daniel Grossman	Apr 18
Max Goldberg	Apr 5	Ilana Tam	Apr 18
Sara Weiner	Apr 6	Rachel Aoki	Apr 18
Joshua Kurtzman	Apr 9	Sarah Aoki	Apr 18
Adam Orson Susman	Apr 9	Samuel Kohll	Apr 21
David Kohll	Apr 9	Yaakov Jeidel	Apr 23
Crystal Smith	Apr 10	Zoe Riekes	Apr 23
Joan M. Kaiman	Apr 11	Harold Edelman	Apr 23
Kevin Adler	Apr 11	Josephine Lila Epstein	Apr 23
Jack Kohll	Apr 11	Nathan Wolf	Apr 25
Jonathan Rockman	Apr 14	Shilo Abramovich	Apr 26
Zoe Berman	Apr 14	David Wheeler	Apr 28
Georgia Ann Steinberg	Apr 15	Paul Shyken	Apr 28
Sarah Potash	Apr 16		

### ANNIVERSARIES

Yosef & Sarah Seigel

Apr 3

## UPCOMING HAPPENINGS AT BETH ISRAEL



Apr 6 - Shabbat Hachodesh

Apr 6 - Rosh Chodesh

Apr 10 - Board Meeting

Apr 13 - Shabbat Hagadol

Apr 14 - *Haggada: How to be Free*  
with Rabbi Ari

Apr 18 - Search for Chametz

Apr 18 - First Seder

Apr 19 - Erev Pesach

Apr 19 - Taanit Bechorot

Apr 19 - Burning of the Chametz

Apr 20 - Congregational Seder\*

Apr 19-27 - Passover

Apr 27 - Yizkor



May 6 - Rosh Chodesh

May 8 - Yom Hazikaron

May 8 - Board Meeting

May 9 - Yom Ha'Atzmaut

May 11 - April/May/Graduation  
Kiddush

May 19 - Pesach Sheni

May 23 - Lag B'Omer

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

\*Register for the Congregational Seder online or by contacting Kaitlin in the office at [executiveasst@orthodoxomaha.org](mailto:executiveasst@orthodoxomaha.org) or call 402.556.6288

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Beth Israel acknowledges, with sincere thanks, the following contributions made from February 26 through March 26.  
Please contact the office with any questions.

### DONATIONS

#### GENERAL DONATIONS

Mazel Tov on the birth of Ariella Adara Priluck - Shirley & David Goodman and Lordes Secola  
In memory of Sally Malashock - Ester Silver  
In honor of Mary Sue Grossman's service to Beth Israel - Lordes Secola  
In appreciation of Beth Israel - David Feldman, Natan & Hanna Schwalb

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In appreciation of Beth Israel - Donald Gerber and Mordecai Spitz

### YAHREIT DONATIONS

- ♦ Helen Roginsky - *Sheila Moravech*
- ♦ Toby Raznick - *Ina Lou Raznick- Kaufman & Art Raznick*
- ♦ Harry Shrago - *Jack & Helene Shrago*
- ♦ Karen Wolf - *Phil & Nancy Wolf*
- ♦ Gayle Wezelman - *Sol Wezelman*
- ♦ Moshe Parilman - *Vera Lewis*
- ♦ Morris Wiseman - *Joan M. Kaiman*
- ♦ Mary Smith - *Roger & Jeri Smith*
- ♦ Lucille Zelinsky - *Edward Zelinsky*

We saw tremendous generosity during Purim this year, as a community over \$950 was collected that will be given to those truly in need.

#### DELEGATION OF POWER FOR SALE OF CHAMETZ

Know that I, the undersigned, fully empower and permit Rabbi Ari Dembitzer to act in my place and stead, and on my behalf to sell all chametz possessed by me (knowingly or unknowingly), as defined by Torah and Rabbinic Law (e.g. chametz, possible chametz and all kinds of chametz mixtures). And to lease all places wherein the chametz owned by me may be found, wherever it may be. Rabbi Ari Dembitzer has the full right to sell and to lease by transactions, as he deems fit and proper and for such time which he believes necessary in accordance with all detailed terms and detailed forms as explained in the general authorization contract which have been given this year to Rabbi Ari Dembitzer to sell the chametz.

This general authorization is made a part of this agreement. Also, I do hereby give the said Rabbi Ari Dembitzer full power and authority to appoint a substitute in his stead with full power to sell and to lease as provided herein. The above given power is in conformity with all Torah, Rabbinical regulations and laws, and also in accordance with laws of the State of Nebraska and of the United States. And to this I hereby affix my signature on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the following information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address where chometz is located  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

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



☆ Stephanie Shradar ☆ Alice Mae ☆



...Joshua & Anna Priluck on the birth of their baby girl Ariella Adara Priluck

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



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

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## SERVICE SCHEDULE MARCH 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 Tazria - Apr 5-6

7:36 pm Candle Lighting  
 7:20 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit  
 8:37 pm Havdalah

### Parshat Metzora - Apr 12-13

7:43 pm Candle Lighting  
 7:25 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit  
 8:45 pm Havdalah

### Passover - Apr 19-20

7:51 pm Candle Lighting  
 7:35 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit  
 8:52 pm Candle Lighting

### Passover - Apr 26-27

7:58 pm Candle Lighting  
 7:40 pm Mincha/Seudah Shlishit  
 9:02 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.