



**April 26 & 27, 2019**  
**21 & 22 Nisan 5779**

### **Pesach**

Torah Reading

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Haftorah

Day 1 - 1224

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A very special thank you goes out to our  
Guardian and Patron Members for going above and  
beyond in supporting our Synagogue.

#### **Guardian Members:**

Joel & Conny Alperson  
Jeff & Sharon  
Kirshenbaum,  
Joe & Maxine  
Kirshenbaum  
David & Janet Kohll  
Stacey & Jonathan  
Rockman  
Phil & Nancy Wolf

#### **Patron Members:**

Samuel & Shirley Cemaj  
Michael & Karen Cohen  
Steve & Tippi Denenberg  
Donald Gerber  
Bruce & Cindy Goldberg  
Don & Nancy Greenberg  
Milton & Marsha  
Kleinberg  
Georgia Plotkin

Bruce & Linda Potash  
Carl & Zoe Riekes  
Mike & Marina Sadofsky  
Jack & Helene Shrago  
Paul & Susan Shyken  
Jeff Zacharia

**IN THE WEEK AHEAD**

*The Week of Learning is being sponsored by  
Joe Roth in memory of his parents Michael & Leah Roth  
and for 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.*

**Friday, April 26**

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv .....	7:58 p.m.
Candle Lighting.....	7:58 p.m.

**Saturday, April 27**

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
<i>Insights into the Weekly Torah Portion.....</i>	7:05 p.m.
Mincha/Seudah Shilshit.....	7:50 p.m.
Havdalah.....	9:02 p.m.

**Sunday, April 28**

Shacharit.....	9:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.....	8:05 p.m.

**Monday, April 29**

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
<i>Jewish History: Your History with Rabbi Shlomo</i>	
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.....	8:05 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 30**

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.....	8:05 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 1**

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.....	8:05 p.m.

**Thursday, May 2**

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
<i>Connecting with Our Faith with Rabbi Ari .....</i>	9:30 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv @ Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.....	8:05 p.m.

**Friday, May 3**

Shacharit.....	7:00 a.m.
Mincha/Maariv .....	7:30 p.m.
Candle Lighting.....	8:06 p.m.



...Ruben and Anna Pitman-Kogan for helping set-up for pesach.

...Joel Alperson and Howie Gendelman for donating the awesome Aifikomen gifts.

...the Dream Team: Ruthe Starlin, Marge Williams, and Nancy Mattly for making Pesach happen in the kitchen.

...Dani Shrago, Harry Weiner, and Helene Shrago for helping shop for Passover.

...Helene Shrago and Shirly Banner for Managing this week's kiddush.

...Rabbi Shlomo and Faige Jeidel for their tireless Pesach preparations.

...Mary Sue Grossman, Harry Berman, and Beth Cohen for guidance.

...Chevra Kadisha Volunteers for their work during a busy week.



## Mazel Tov to Those Celebrating Next Week

### Birthdays

Paul Shyken	Apr 28
David Wheeler	Apr 28
Ida Banner	May 1
Marvin Kirke	May 1
Benjamin Wiesman	May 2

### Anniversaries

Frederic & Alyshia Weiss	May 2
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*Celebrating a special simcha in April or May?  
Its graduation season don't forget to call Kaitlin  
in the office or contact Bette Kozlen to be apart of the  
April/May Simcha Kiddush.*



## Friedel's Annual Plant Sale!

Thursday, May 2 and Friday, May 3

JCC Main Entrance: 9-5

CDC: 11:30-6:00

Friedel Jewish Academy will be holding their annual plant sale on Thursday, May 2nd and Friday, May 3rd. There will be a large variety of annuals and perennials as well as vegetables and herbs. There will be two locations to shop at this year, at the JCC front desk as well as the CDC. Also, to add to this year's sale is the opportunity for pre-ordering. All preorders will be due by April 17th. Please contact Friedel's PTO head at [usbooksandme@yahoo.com](mailto:usbooksandme@yahoo.com) for any additional preorder details. Vegetables will be available at the sale but not available to preorder.

If you are available to help, Friedel is also asking for volunteers. Refer to the weekly email for the volunteer sign-up link.

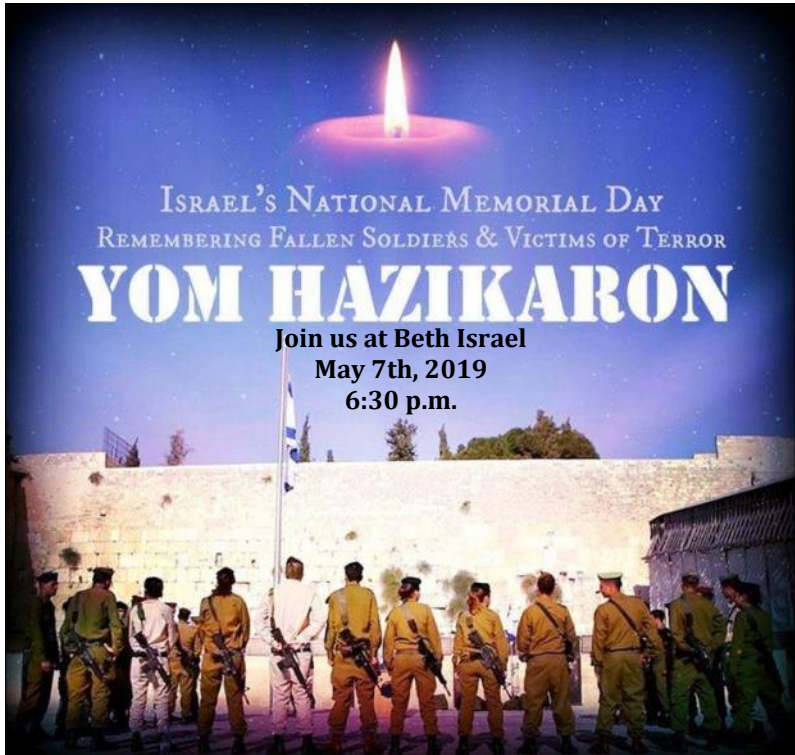
Friedel's plant sale hours are:

Thursday and Friday

JCC Main Entrance: 9-5

CDC: 11:30-6:00





2019 Yom Ha'Atzmaut  
**Festival**  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

**5:30-7:30 p.m. | FREE CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL**  
Join us at the shuk for inflatables, games, prizes and more!  
Food from Star Catering will be available for purchase.

**6:00-6:15 p.m. | YOM HAZIKARON CEREMONY**  
Join us as we remember and honor fallen Israeli soldiers.

**7:00-8:00 p.m. | B'NAI B'RITH JEWISH TRIVIA CONTEST**  
All ages are welcome. Advanced registration requested.

*All events are FREE and open to the community.*

**3rd-6th Grade & Beth El 7th Grade**  
4:00-6:00pm | JCC Social Hall  
Snacks, religious school activities  
6:00-6:15pm | JCC Gymnasium  
Yom HaZikaron Ceremony  
6:15-7:30pm | JCC Gymnasium  
Yom Ha'Atzmaut Carnival w/ parental supervision

**8th-12th Grade & Temple 7th Grade**  
6:00-6:15pm | JCC Gymnasium  
Yom HaZikaron Ceremony  
6:15-7:00pm | JCC Auditorium  
Dinner and activities with Israeli teen delegation  
7:00-8:00pm | JCC Auditorium  
B'nai B'rith Jewish Trivia Contest

**THANK YOU!** This program is made possible with the support of the Herbert Goldstein Trust, and the following Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation Funds: Albert and Eleanor Feldman Family Israel Foundation and the Murray H. and Sharon C. Neuman Supporting Foundation.



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**Spring into Life: Blood Drive**  
**Beth Israel Synagogue**  
**Sunday, May 12th**  
**9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Donate blood this Mother's Day and receive a flower and admission ticket for Lauritzen Gardens to gift your mother (or keep for yourself)!

For an appointment please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and search sponsor code: BethIsrael or call 1.800.RED.CROSS (1.800.733.2767).

Please call or email Faige Jeidel with any questions.

A poster for a community event. At the top center is an orange circle containing a white icon of a grill with flames. Below this, the text "BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS..." is written in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. The main title "LAG BAOMER BONFIRE/BBQ PICNIC" is in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, a list of activities is provided in white, all-caps, sans-serif font: "BBQ DINNER - LEMONADE", "WATERMELON - POPCORN - S'MORES", "ARCHERY - FRISBEE/SOCCER", "HASIDIC TALES WITH RABBI ARI", and "MUSIC (BRING YOUR GUITARS)". The background of the poster is a photograph of a red SUV parked at night next to a bonfire. A person is sitting on the ground near the fire. A tree is visible in the background. On the right side of the poster, the text "This event is FREE for BBYO members" is written vertically in white, all-caps, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the poster, the date and time "MAY 22, 2019 • 8:00 PM • BETH ISRAEL" are written in white, all-caps, sans-serif font.



## **Splitting Your Sea**

**Sarah Fineman, Aish.com**

A young man approached his rabbi seeking guidance and strength. "Life is like an ocean," the rabbi said to his student. "There are waves that come crashing down, pushing us beneath the current. And then, just as sudden, there are moments of calm. You, my dear student, were struck by a massive wave and now you are trapped beneath the tide unable to swim to the surface. The problem right now," the rabbi continued, "is that in your heart, you believe that life is about the calm between the waves." We don't get to choose the waves that come our way, but we do decide how to respond to them. It is our response to the waves that makes us the people we are.

Resting poolside, beer in hand, on a hammock is not the recipe for becoming a world class swimmer. To earn the gold you must dive into the water day after day and swim until every muscle in your body aches. It's tackling the challenges of the waves that ultimately bring us to greatness. We actualize our potential by working our way through wave after wave after wave. "The moments of calm," explained the rabbi, "are there so we can catch our breath before the next wave hits."

Over 3,000 years ago, the nation of Israel faced a perilous situation. They ran from the darkness and slavery of Egypt with the world's mightiest army chasing after them only to come to the sea. They had waited so long for this moment. They had struggled through 210 years of hardship and torture to reach this point, and there they stood with the vast waters barricading them from redemption.

One brave man, Nachshon, realized there was a choice even in this gravest of circumstances. They could turn around and go back to the past, to the familiarity of Egypt where, despite its hardships and constrictions, they had learned to survive. Or they could forge ahead as a nation, taking a leap and making the commitment to stand strong with one another and with God. Nachshon chose the latter. He understood the words of the wise rabbi centuries before they had ever been uttered. "Life is not about the calm. It's about the waves." Nachshon stepped into the sea, took another step, and then another until the water reached his neck about to engulf him entirely. Nachshon lifted his foot again, about to take what should have been his final

step in this world. Suddenly the waters split, creating walls towering up towards the heavens, leaving dry land for Nachshon and the entire nation to walk upon. It was at that moment that the people of Israel felt the strength of nationhood and the glory of God.

The Hebrew word for Egypt is Mitzrayim, which stems from the word tzar meaning narrow or constricted. As we celebrate Passover, we leave behind the constrictions of Egypt and break through our own personal barricades, which at times may seem as vast as the sea.

Nachshon demonstrates the formula for conquering the waves: With effort and faith, nothing is out of reach. He teaches us that God who brought us out of Egypt and split the sea is surely capable of delivering us from our own personal troubles.

The final days of Passover celebrate the splitting of the sea. This year, let's celebrate a journey through our own waves, a redemption from our own personal Egypt, and understand that our biggest barricade to freedom was never actually the sea; it was ourselves



**Todah Rabbah to  
Leora McNamara  
NCSY Omaha Board Member  
for this week's D'var Torah**



This past Saturday night at the second seder we started counting the Omer. The Omer is the counting of the days between Passover and Shavuot. This 49 day process of the Omer is just like the 49 days the Jews had to be in the dessert between leaving Egypt and arriving at Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah. Two questions surface in my mind when counting the Omer:

1. Why are we counting up to Shavuot from Passover; Shouldn't we be counting down in anticipation of receiving the Torah?
2. What is with the weird grammar? Why do we say 'today are two days' not something more grammatically correct like: 'today is the second day'?

The answers to both of these questions can be put together... go to the most important parsha class of the year!! But I'll give you a teaser. As we count the days of the Omer we refine ourselves in preparation to receive the Torah. Each of the 49 days represents a different opportunity for spiritual growth, unique to that day. For this reason we are growing in our counting because we are growing our spiritually. For the same reason we don't merely say 'second day' passing it by. We focus on that day and the specific area for spiritual growth saying 'two days' as in: I have two days of spiritual thought under my wing. Counting the Omer is a vital part to our growth as a nation and our ability to receive the Torah on Shavuot. May we use this special time to grow and become the best we can be.



## **WELCOME TO BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE**

We are delighted to welcome you to Beth Israel Synagogue. A passage from Deuteronomy 30:11-14 inspired the art work in the sanctuary. "For this commandment that I command you today - it is not hidden from you and it is not distant. It is not in heaven, [for you] to say, 'Who can go to the heaven and take it for us so that we can listen to it and perform it? Nor is it across the seas, [for you] to say, 'Who can cross to the other side of the sea for us and take it for us, so that we can listen to it and perform it?' Rather, the matter is very near to you - in your mouth and your heart - to perform it." Mitzvot are obtainable.

- ◆ The focal point of the sanctuary is the Menorah Window, which frames the Ark and is shaped in the form of the six branched candelabrum. To the right, brilliantly colored windows have forms that reflect the heavens, while the left side depicts the seas.
- ◆ The message is completed in a frieze, the horizontal painting on wood mounted on the wall. The background of the frieze symbolically and abstractly represents the relationship between G-d and the people of Israel through the Covenant. The perochet, or curtain over the Ark, completes the symbolic composition, with an expression that intertwines the Torah and the letter Aleph, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, of the Ten Commandments, and of G-d's name in Hebrew.
- ◆ As is traditional, the sanctuary has 12 windows, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. These windows contain the name of each tribe in flowing, organic letters. The windows are located above the continued frieze, which includes two central texts of the revelation at Sinai - "If you will keep my Covenant, you shall be precious to me," and "You shall be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." This composition expresses the unity of Israel as the people stood together at Sinai and accepted the Torah.

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*Beth Israel Synagogue strives to perpetuate the legacy of Torah Judaism in the modern world. Beth Israel welcomes all persons of the Jewish faith to join and accepts the diversity of practice and thought among its members.*

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Toba Cohen-Dunning, President  
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Leo Fettman, Cantor Emeritus  
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