This week

OU Leadership Summit

ANNETTE VAN DE KAMP-WRIGHT
Editor, Jewish Press

Toba Cohen-Dunning is the President of Beth Israel’s Board of Directors; in that role, she certainly has her hands full. Recently, she attended the OU Women’s Initiative First Lay Leadership Confab, which addressed challenges of modern Jewish communal leadership. This conference is designed to encourage and develop women like Toba, who serve as lay leaders within their communities. The 100 participants were nominated by 56 communities around the United States, Canada, Israel, the United Kingdom and South Africa.

“As president of Beth Israel and as a member of a variety of boards that encompass Jewish Omaha,” Toba said, “I was honored to be invited to attend this conference. It’s important for us as Jews to continually work to grow our communities and grow ourselves personally and professionally. It’s helpful to see what orthodox communities are doing around the country and the globe. It affords us the opportunity to understand what programs are enhancing the area, how activities that we have not considered “here” have made such a welcoming impact “there.” For instance, I met a woman who sits on the executive committee of her shul in a smaller city in New York who developed a welcoming program for new congregants. Just the extra touches, the extra efforts that they are making “there” are creating a warm and inviting religious home.

“It’s not to say we don’t do some of it in our shul, it’s that listening to what others are doing provided great inspiration. Bringing the shared practices back to Beth Israel will provide new volunteer opportunities, as well. You want everyone to feel engaged — and this conference was a glowing example of how getting almost 100 women in the same room to see OU Leadership Summit page 3

Toba Cohen-Dunning

Read it and eat:
The Father’s Day edition
Page 5

Academic Excellence Scholarship

DIANE WALKER
Executive Assistant, JFO

The Financial Aid Committee of the Jewish Federation of Omaha is pleased to announce that Ilana McNamara has been selected as the 2019 recipient of the David Keiser and Lillian Keiser Stoms Foundation Education Endowment Fund for Academic Excellence Scholarship.

Ilana McNamara

This is the only merit-based scholarship granted by the committee. While based strictly on academics, with high school grade-point averages and ACT/SAT scores used as the primary measure, a prerequisite for consideration is that the recipient must demonstrate a commitment to the Jewish community.

Dorothy Spizman, Financial Aid Committee chair commented on the quality of this year’s candidates. “I remain so impressed with our young adults. It is a pleasure each year to read of their accomplishments. Their achievements are always remarkable and I know these young adults will be successful in their chosen fields.”

Ilana is the daughter of Aviva Segal and Patrick McNamara. She will graduate from Central High School, 10th in her class of 871 students. While at Central, she has been the principal violist of their Chamber Strings Orchestra and is currently president of the orchestra. She is the vice president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Ilana has received the Nebraska Young Artist Award and was designated an Omaha Conservatory of Music Scholar. She has been active in the Omaha Area Youth Orchestras and the Nebraska All-State Orchestra and loves quartet playing.

Ilana and her family are active members of Beth Israel. Ilana is very involved with the synagogue as Vice President of the Omaha Area Youth Orchestras and is the vice president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Ilana is a proud graduate of Friedel Jewish Academy and participated in the 2017 Teen Trip to Israel. She also represented Omaha in the 2018 Partnership2GETHER music program where she was privileged to perform around Israel with excellent musicians. When I asked about her greatest accomplishment, she told me about her chosen fields. “Many times, heated public and private discussions on this topic have taken place in Israel over the years. The differences of opinion have included, but are not limited to, the army service of haredim and other religious issues in the IDE, the control of the chief rabbinate on marriages, the restrictions and laws regarding kashrut issues and many more related topics. The range of opinions See Friday Learning Series page 3

Credit: Yonatan Sindel/FLASH90/JTA

JUNE 7, 2019 | 4 SIVAN 5779 | VOL. 99 | NO. 34 | CANDLETBLIGHTING | FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 8:37 P.M.
Rabbi Abraham is guest at B’nai Israel

NANCY WOLF

The congregation of B’nai Israel Synagogue is honored to welcome Rabbi Steven Abraham as our guest speaker for the June 14 Shabbat service.

Please note the special earlier start time of 5:45 p.m.

Rabbi Abraham graduated from the rabbinical school at the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2011, where he also received an M.A. in Jewish Education. Prior to attending TJS, he earned a B.S. in Business Management from the University of Baltimore. Recent studies have resulted in earning a Certificate in Conservative Judaism.

Sharing more about his life, Rabbi Abraham expands: “I grew up in the Washington, DC suburbs and was actively involved in USY as a teen. Then in college and rabbinical school I worked with USY as a group leader on multiple summer programs, including USY on Wheels and Summer in the City as well as staffing NATIV (gap year program in Israel). Today I’m honored to sit on multiple boards including the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the national board of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. I love sports, especially baseball and hockey. I took up running over the past five years, and it has given me time and space to clear my head and try to relax. I am incredibly fortunate to have an amazing partner, Shira J. Abraham, who grew up in Highland Park, IL. We were married in January 2008 and we have two kids Naama (7) and Leor (5).”

In addition to the service, there will also be a dairy/pareve dinner open to anyone in the community at the synagogue starting at 5:45 p.m. The cost will be $12 per person. Please reserve your place with Nancy Wolf, nancyywolf16620@gmail.com or 402.330.6736.

This surely will be a special opportunity, so we hope you will join us on June 14 for dinner and/or Shabbat service. Larry Blass will be our service leader, and a lovely oneg will follow the service.

Trade School Scholarships available for 2019-20 academic year

An anonymous donor in our community has created two trade school scholarship opportunities, up to $5,000 each, to go towards the 2019-20 academic year. Not every student who advances into higher education signs up for a four-year curriculum. Some high school graduates seek job training that lasts a year or two, and then places them in the workforce. Such opportunities include, but are not restricted to, Information Technology, Construction, Industrial and Transportation, and Horticulture. It is not too late to apply for the upcoming school year!

Qualified students who have unmet needs regarding tuition for either a two-year trade school program or a trade certificate program can contact the Jewish Press at avandekamp@jewishomaha.org for more information.

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OU Leadership Summit

Continued from page 1

network with each other makes us all feel empowered to return to continue promoting Yiddishkeit (as was mentioned several times by so many participants).

Sessions focused on leadership strategy and communication, public speaking, engaging and retaining volunteers, and compelling programming, effective use of social media, honing and growing one’s personal leadership strengths and work life balance, community spiritual growth, board and donor relations and other day-to-day challenges for 21st century Orthodox women. Expert lecturers, educators and leaders in the field delivered workshops, sessions and other presentations throughout the program.

Executive Vice President of the OU Allen Fagin addressed the summit and recognized the many contributions of the successful professional women in the room who volunteer with their communities as officers, members of executive committees and board members of synagogues, yeshivas, day schools, mikvahs, bnei mitzvah programs, b’not mitzvah programs, youth committees, adult education and a wide variety of community groups and institutions.

“Recognize the enormity of our accomplishments and, even more importantly, the enormous opportunities we have to meet those challenges, to benefit our communities and reach out beyond them,” said Fagin. “And you each recognize what I believe is the most important lesson of this past week – and that is the power of one – the ability of one person. One person, with the right drive, energy, skill and ambition to singularly inspire a community, transform a shul; propel a yeshiva to new heights and drive organizational change through the formulation of strategy and mission.”

For Toba, one of the many rewarding aspects of the conference was connecting with women who had a connection to Omaha:

“As a Jewish Midwesterner, it’s a great deal of fun to meet new people across the country,” she said. “Being from Nebraska, I appreciate the Omaha community and the values that I share with that Midwestern community.”

For Ilana, it was seeing her great-grandmother inducted into the OU’s hall of fame:

“I am so proud of my great-grandmother and have always admired her as a role model for my family.”

And for Amanda, it was the impact of the conference on her vision:

“The conference reminded us why.”

The Friday Learning Series is a joint program of Beth Israel Synagogue and the OU. The series is open to the community free of charge thanks to the support of the Ann Goldstein Programming Endowment Fund. Reservations are not required. While you are encouraged to attend both sessions, each one will have a wealth of information; and you will benefit from attending one or both.

Contact Mark Kirkhoff at nkirkhoff@jewishomaha.org or 402.334.6463 for questions.
Beth El: Shabbat outside the box

Beth El Synagogue is taking Shabbat out of the building this summer. “We’ve scheduled two unique events in upcoming weeks,” said Robby Erlich, Beth El Engagement Coordinator. “On Friday evening, June 21, the community is invited to College World Series Shabbat, and on Friday evening, June 28, the synagogue will host Shabbat and Shakespeare on the Green. Both programs are designed to take Shabbat to you.”

On Friday evening, June 21, a free bus will take participants from the Beth El parking lot to the College World Series Shabbat Dinner to a location in the Old Market. The kosher dinner — which will feature ballpark fare and tailgate treats including veggie wraps, mini hot dogs, sides, drinks and parve desserts — begins at 5 p.m. and will be served in the venue’s outdoor roof top party space. Kabbalat Shabbat services, led by Beth El clergy, starts at 6 p.m. at the same location. “Add some extra rauch to this Shabbat, by wearing your favorite team jersey,” Erlich said. The cost of dinner is $5 for adults, $3 for kids 6-12, and $15 for a family of four or more. Bus transportation will take participants back to the synagogue by 7 p.m. “For those who choose to attend the College World Series ball game after dinner, it’s an easy walk to the stadium.”

Reservations for dinner are appreciated before June 14, and may be made at Beth El’s website: bethel-omaha.org.

Beth Israel 2019 Annual Meeting

MARY SUE GREENSPAN

The 2019 Beth Israel Synagogue Annual Meeting was held Sunday, May 5. After welcoming the attending President Toba Cohen-Dunning, President; Julee Katzman, Membership Vice President; Jonathan Rockman, Financial Vice President; Bruce Potash, Membership Vice President; Jeff Kirchenbaum, Treasurer; Lauren Tam, Secretary; Joel Alperton, Shirly Banner, Lynne Saltzman, Yosel Segel, Helene Shrago, Susie Shlyken, Lauren Tuxman, Harry Weiner. The Beth Israel Board of Commissioners traditionally meets at 6 p.m.

next. The following individuals will serve as board members for the 2019-2020 term: Toba Cohen-Dunning, President; Julie Katzman, Administration; Jonathan Rockman, Financial Vice President; Bruce Potash, Membership Vice President; Jeff Kirchenbaum, Treasurer; Lauren Tam, Secretary; Joel Alperton, Shirly Banner, Lynne Saltzman, Yosel Segel, Helene Shrago, Susie Shlyken, Lauren Tuxman, Harry Weiner. The Beth Israel Board of Commissioners traditionally meets at 6:30 p.m., the second Wednesday of each month.

The Nebraska Landlord Conference℠ is a one day, once a year, fun, engaging and educational conference sponsored by the Nebraska Landlord Conference℠ (the preeminent Residential Rental Industry Annual Conference) brings property investors together at one time and in one place for learning and networking. NLC is a certified organization with continuing education credits in real estate, law and insurance. This year’s theme is 2019 NLC: Flipping & Divorce Court. Join the speaker meet and greet, networking, Hollywood photo booth, door prizes and executive breakfast buffet. 2019 NLC partners: Lovejoy Consulting, Premier Kabbalat Shabbat Service for Adults, Potter Properties Owners Association, Dino’s Storage, Mercury Contractors, CHI, Signal 88 Security, 3rd Party, Nebraska Landlord Conference℠.
Steak 101, an easy 5-minutes-a-side way to cook a steak

**Ingredients:**
1 to 4 boneless New York Strip steaks or other favorite (steak-house) variety such as ribeye or filet mignon (12 ounces each and at least 1 inch thick)
Extra-virgin olive oil
1 tsp. kosher salt or more as needed (optional)
1 tsp. whole black peppercorns, coarsely ground (optional)

**Directions:**
Outdoor Grilling Method: Direct/Medium-High Heat (about 400 degrees F)
Preheat the grill with all burners on high. Once preheated, adjust the temperature to medium-high heat for direct grilling.
Wrap the meat in paper towels to rid it of excess moisture. Replace the paper towels as needed.
Just before grilling, brush both sides of the steaks with oil and season with salt and pepper, if desired.
Place the steaks directly over medium-high heat for about 5 minutes. Flip the steaks over and continue cooking for about 5 more minutes for medium-rare (135 degrees F on an instant-read thermometer).
Remove the steaks from the grill and set them on a platter. Allow them to rest for at least 5 minutes, but no longer than 10 minutes before serving.
Serves 4.
Sing, Sing, Swing at RBJH

MAGGIE CONTI
Director of Activities and Volunteer Services

Community Concert with Sing, Sing, Swing Orchestra: Friday, June 14, at 1:45 p.m. in the JCC Auditorium. There is no admission fee. Everyone is welcome. The Sing, Sing, Swing Orchestra has been entertaining across the Midwest since 1990. Known for their love of swing music, expect to hear In the Mood, One O’clock Jump and Benny Goodman’s Sing, Sing, Sing. Joined by vocalist Julie Baker, you will LOVE this Sentimental Journey back to the ’40s! There is no admission fee and all are welcome. This concert is generously sponsored by the Ruth Riekes Richards Endowment Fund of the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation. Come have lunch before the Swing concert with a Mainstreeters $5 coupon for the STAR deli. There will be coupons for Mainstreeters at The STAR deli cashier. The STAR deli is open for business at 11:30 a.m. on Main Street at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home.

Organizations

B’Nai B’rith Breadbreakers
B’nai B’rith Breadbreakers meets weekly on Wednesdays at the Rose Blumkin Jewish Home auditorium from noon to 1 p.m. For specific speaker information, please email Gary.Javitch@Gmail.com, Breadbreakers chairman. For more information or to be placed on the email list call 402.334.6443 or bnaibrith@jewishomaha.org.

JCC Pool inclement weather policy

The JCC follows the National Weather Service policy for inclement weather. In the event of weather involving lightning and thunder, the following policies and procedures will be observed in both the outdoor and indoor pools. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we follow these policies to ensure your safety and well-being.

Thunder: When thunder is heard, the pools will close for 30 minutes, meaning no one is allowed in either body of water.

Lightning: When lightning is spotted, the pools will be closed. Pools will re-open 30 minutes post storm or when deemed appropriate by staff. For additional policies at the Goldstein Aquatic Center, please visit http://www.jewishomaha.org/jcc/aquatics/view/policies-and-procedures/.

Coffee — WITH —

Cavanaugh

State Senator Machaela Cavanaugh invites you to join her for coffee and conversation about the 2019 Legislative Session.

JUNE 11TH | 2-3PM

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, SOCIAL HALL

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OMAHA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY / 2019 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

June 16, 23, 30 and July 7 / 3:00pm
Omaha Conservatory of Music
7023 Cass Street
omahachambermusic.org
Matilda the Musical runs at The Rose, June 7-30, 2019, with performances on Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The 2 p.m. show of Matilda on Saturday, June 15 will be interpreted for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, and captioning devices will be available if needed. This show will also include audio description services for audience members who are blind.

Tickets for Matilda the Musical are $27 for main floor and $22 for balcony. Members of The Rose receive discounted tickets to the production. Matilda the Musical is sponsored by Children’s Hospital & Medical Center, Nebraska Furniture Mart, Mutual of Omaha, the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

Special opening night activities are sponsored by Kiewit Companies. In the spirit of Matilda’s love for reading, The Rose is partnering with the Junior League of Omaha to host a “Book of My Own” book drive throughout the run of Matilda the Musical. Audiences are encouraged to bring a donation of gently-used books with subject matter appropriate for ages 0-18. Books should be in “gift or saleable condition,” with no torn covers, ripped pages, writing, chewed marks or water damage.

The Rose Theater is one of the largest and most accomplished children’s theaters in the nation, with a reputation for enriching the lives of children and families through top-quality professional productions and arts education. We take pride knowing that The Rose is the place where children of all ages experience theater for the first time, and we are dedicated to helping them appreciate theater for a lifetime.

The Omaha Chamber Music Society Summer Concert Series

The Omaha Chamber Music Society has announced its 2019 Summer Concert Series, with four performances taking place over four weekends at The Rose.

The series introduces audiences to the story of a brilliant child born to selfish and ignorant parents. While other parents see their children as the most precious gifts in the world, the Wormwoods hurl insults at their daughter Matilda, refusing to acknowledge that she is a girl and viewing her as simply an obstacle in their paths as a used car salesman and would-be dance champion. Matilda -- who is, in fact, a highly intelligent and precocious girl with astonishing wit and obsessed with reading -- quickly learns that she must take charge of her own upbringing.

Twelve-year-old Maddie Smith takes on the title role of Matilda. Smith most recently appeared in The Rose’s world premiere production of The Doll Maker’s Gift. The set of Matilda reflects the character’s love of reading. More than 3000 books have been used to create the massive scale environment features a variety of hidden pockets that transform into different scenes in Matilda’s world -- her classroom, Trunchbull’s office, the Wormwoods home and more.

Matilda the Musical

When a young girl with extraordinary gifts finds herself pitted against an unfair world, she uses her unique talents (and a certain amount of naughtiness) to change the seemingly inevitable end to her story, in Matilda, a musical adaptation of the Roald Dahl book playing at The Rose Theater, June 7-30. Community members Eva and Lilian Cohen are among the cast.

Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl and packed with high-energy dance numbers, Matilda the Musical introduces audiences to the story of a brilliant child born to selfish and ignorant parents. While other parents see their children as the most precious gifts in the world, the Wormwoods hurl insults at their daughter Matilda, refusing to acknowledge that she is a girl and viewing her as simply an obstacle in their paths as a used car salesman and would-be dance champion. Matilda -- who is, in fact, a highly intelligent and precocious girl with astonishing wit and obsessed with reading -- quickly learns that she must take charge of her own upbringing.

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Above: JCC Camp counselors participate in a bonding exercise during orientation week. During a session taught by JFS Executive Director Karen Gustafson, they mastered the “human knot.”

Below: RBJH Resident Bettie Muskin opened up the RBJH Talent Show by singing America the Beautiful with Emily Clement, Activities Coordinator.

Above: Diane has been a volunteer at the Rose Blumkin Jewish home for the past six months. “I really enjoy sewing shawls and creating fidget blankets for our wonderful residents at RBJH.” In addition to creating these items, Diane also helps mend resident clothing.

Below: RBJH Resident Bettie Muskin opened up the RBJH Talent Show by singing America the Beautiful with Emily Clement, Activities Coordinator.

Above: Thursday, May 23, Friedel Jewish Academy graduates received their diplomas. Front to back: Darby Smith, Gabor Obora-Petro, Liora Shapiro, Abiel Oregon, Lily Tam and Shilo Abramovich.

Below: Ari and Sara Kohen with their son Micah. Micah recently graduated from the CDC and will be starting Friedel Jewish Academy in the fall, where he will join older siblings Judah and Talia.

Above: Beth El teachers Amy Dworin and Edie Tsabari wish Walden and Albert Beha well on their upcoming move to England on the last day of BESTT.

Left: BESTT parents and students in K-2 enjoyed their Habonim outing to The Makery where each student got to design and paint their own wall plaque.
The strange debate on circumcision

ANNETTE VAN DE KAMP-WRIGHT

The topic of circumcision is rarely heard for great conversation. And when it makes the news, it’s usually for uncomfortable reasons—like non-Jewish politicians coming up with reasonable-sounding arguments against it.

Case in point: “The Dutch Health Ministry said it is cracking down on Jews who perform circumcisions without a medical degree or title.” Danan Lipshy wrote for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week. “Two of the most popular mohels, or ritual circumcisers, in the Jewish community were the target of a probe by the ministry, it said in a statement. The Netherlands has a handful of mohels, and as is common around the world, some of the more popular ones are not recognized as medical caregivers.”

I’d be personally宁愿一个人做了一场手术 than a mohel to have a medical degree. But when people start to criticize circumcision I’m also personally泛指无 number of occasions on which ritual circumcision doesn’t pass the smell test.

“In 2010, the Royal Dutch Medical Association called for banning non-medical circumcision of boys, arguing that it is unnecessary and risks and violates the rights of underaged patients. Across Western Europe, children’s welfare activists, as well as anti-immigration parties, are making bemos of circumcision, though no country has adopted it.”

But these protests do not happen in a vacuum. Complaints about ritual circumcision go hand-in-hand with criticism of ritual slaughter. It’s the same argument.

“Anyone with a heart would agree that the Jewish bris, a barbaric event,” Hannah Rosin wrote in a 2009 New York Magazine article. “Grown-up sit chatting politely, sipping the cream cheese off their lips, while some natio of medical training prepares to slice up a newborn’s penis. The helpless baby wakes up from a womb-slower howling with pain. I fell near hysterical at both of my son’s brisses. Popped up with new mother’s hormones, I dug my nails into my palms to keep from clawing the rabbi. For a few days afterward, I cursed my God and everyone else for creating the bloody mess in the diaper. But then the penis healed and assumed its familiar heart shape and I promptly forgot about the whole trauma. Apparently some people never do.”

I’m with Rosin; while my son’s actual bris was a less than pleasant affair, I never for one second questioned we would circumcise our son. But I’m a woman and I don’t know what it’s like for circumcised men. Also, were someone to ask me why I don’t question whether I made the right decision, I’m not sure I would have a ready answer. It was an emotional issue, not a rational or practical one. Maybe it’s because the debate seems to not go anywhere—and why it just feels like a lot of people screaming without anyone coming up with a solution. I know one thing, though: walking around in white covers with a faux-mohs beard you know where you’re not going to convince anyone to come in."

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SARAH GOLD

For lactose intolerant Jews, Shavuot’s dairy diet is a test of intestinal fortitude

Many modern-day Jews aren’t all that familiar with Shavuot which celebrates the day when the Israelites first received the Torah from God and falls seven weeks after Passover marked their Exodus from Egypt.

Jews with some familiarity of Shavuot probably know the holiday is for eating cheese—a along with other creamy, dairy-rich dishes, like traditional bltiches and kugel, Ashkenazi and south Asian, and yozhkos de keso are cheese biscuits.

Many traditional Shavuot foods, like cheese, or even your own butter, and using them

What’s ironic about the apparently universal love among Jews for dairy-rich dishes is, of course, that we Jews are largely predisposed to lactose intolerance. Several studies suggest that 60 to 80 percent of us already use: popping a dietary lactase enzyme that allows for easy digestion of the lactose in our food. This enzyme is found in a large variety of dairy foods, including milk, cheese, and yogurt.

Lactose is the main sugar in milk, and it is broken down by an enzyme called lactase. Most people are born with this enzyme, which allows them to digest milk and other lactose-containing foods. However, as people age, lactase production decreases, and many people become lactose intolerant. When lactose is not properly digested, it can cause gas, bloating, and other digestive discomfort.

Many traditional Shavuot foods, like cheese, are hard for lactose-intolerant Jews to digest. The Jewish Press | June 7, 2019 | Chabad

Ashkenazim are lactase-deficient (lacking the enzyme that allows for easy digestion of the lactose in milk products). Though less studied, the Sephardic and Mediterranean Jews also consume lactose-rich dishes enjoyed on Shavuot.

The strange debate on circumcision

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**Family Taekwondo and other summer opportunities at the Jewish Community Center**

The Omaha ATA Martial Arts Black Belt Academy offers Taekwondo at the J. Classes meet 3 times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and are held in the Group Exercise Studio. The whole family is encouraged to participate together. The more members of your family that sign up, the more you save! Fees are collected on a monthly basis. Taekwondo is open to JCC Members only. In addition, the JCC offers a Ladies Empowerment Introduction to Self Defense. We are proud to partner with Omaha ATA Martial Arts Black Belt Academy to present a new self-defense class for women. Participants will learn the basics of blocking, striking and kicking, and easy escape tactics. fees feel confident and empowered! No equipment, uniform, or prior training is required. This class is open to JCC Members of all ages. We encourage you to enroll with a friend to have a training partner.

*The age under the age of 13 must attend with an adult.*

For more information about either of these programs, please contact Lynette Bramen, Director of Athletics at 402.590.2144 or lbramen@ccomaha.org.

School Break Specials are full day programs for kids who are out of school for scheduled breaks or weather-related closings. School Break Specials are a time for fun, food and friends! There will be awesome projects, fun, and games. The mornings will be filled with either a field trip or special activity. Drop off and pick up for are in the JCC lobby. Regular programs are from 9-3 a.m. to 4 p.m. Before and After Care are available 7-9 a.m. and 6-6 p.m. for more details, contact Director of Youth Programs Allison Burger at 402.334.6409 or aburger@ccomaha.org or Amanda Welch, Assistant Director of Youth Programs at 402.590.2152 or awelch@ccomaha.org.
Return Israeli justice system to days of kings David and Solomon?

MARCY OSTER JERUSALEM | JTA

A right-wing Israeli lawmaker said he wants to be the country’s justice minister so his religious party can “restore the Torah justice system.”

Bezalel Smotrich of the Union of Right-Wing Parties, which includes his Jewish Home party, made the statement Sunday night at a Jerusalem Day event at the Mercaz Harav yeshiva in Jerusalem. On Monday he doubled down on the statement in an interview on the Kan national broadcaster.

The State of Israel, the country of the Jewish people, with God willing, will go back to operating as it did in the days of King David and King Solomon,” he told Kan.

“I want the State of Israel to operate according to the Torah in the long run. That’s how it should be, it’s a Jewish state,” he also said, adding that the Torah law would be observed “according to today’s spirit, according to the Torah in the long run. That’s how it should be, it’s a Jewish state.”

Bezalel Smotrich called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to name him interim justice minister in the wake of Netanyahu’s firing of Ayelot Shaked from the position.

Avigdor Liberman, who heads the Yisrael Beiteinu party, slammed Smotrich after saying last week that he cannot be part of a “halachic government” over the demands of the haredi Orthodox parties.

“These are no longer comments coming from a delusional hilltop youth, but a state minister of interior,” he said, referring to Smotrich, a West Bank resident. “We will prevent that, we won’t lend those efforts a hand. Jewish law is an important and critical part of the Israeli justice system, but Israeli law cannot be Torah law.”

Smotrich has called himself a “proud homophobe” and called the Jerusalem Pride Parade an “abomination parade.” He was slammed in 2016 for saying that Arab and Jewish women should be put in separate rooms in the maternity wards of Israeli hospitals. He also called Reform Judaism a “fake religion.”

Sobibor Railway Station.

Credit: Jacques Lahitte

Army in 1940 to fight the Nazis. He was captured and taken as a prisoner of war in 1941. He was transferred to Sobibor in 1943, and participated in the Sobibor uprising in September of that year. He was one of the 300 prisoners that managed to escape the camp, and one of only 47 who survived in the days after the uprising. He hid in the woods with a small group of prisoners until spring 1944, when they were liberated by the Red Army, which he rejoined and participated in the capture of Berlin by the Soviet forces, according to Ynet. He was demobilized in October 1945. He is survived by two sons and five grandchildren in Israel and the United States.

Last living survivor of Nazi death camp Sobibor dies

MARCY OSTER JERUSALEM | JTA

The last living survivor of the Nazi death camp Sobibor has died.

Semion Rosenfeld died Monday at a hospital in central Israel at the age of 96. He moved to Israel from the Ukraine in 1990, according to the Jerusalem Post.

Sobibor was built and operated by the SS during World War II near the railway station of Sobibor in Poland. At least 200,000 Jews were murdered in the gas chambers at Sobibor though some have put the number as high as 350,000. The camp was destroyed by the Germans at the end of 1943.

Rosenfeld, who was born in Ukraine, was drafted into the Red Army in 1940 to fight the Nazis. He was captured and taken as a prisoner of war in 1941. He was transferred to Sobibor in 1943, and participated in the Sobibor uprising in September of that year. He was one of the 300 prisoners that managed to escape the camp, and one of only 47 who survived in the days after the uprising. He hid in the woods with a small group of prisoners until spring 1944, when they were liberated by the Red Army, which he rejoined and participated in the capture of Berlin by the Soviet forces, according to Ynet. He was demobilized in October 1945. He is survived by two sons and five grandchildren in Israel and the United States.
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Contact the Jewish Federation of Omaha Foundation today.
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