

Friday Learning Series: Focusing on Jerusalem

Mark Kirchhoff, Community Engagement and Education

On Friday, July 14 from 11:15 a.m. until noon in the Kripke Jewish Federation Library, Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich continues with his popular Friday Learning Series by presenting a three-part study of the city of Jerusalem – the second and third sessions being on July 21st and 28th.



Photo credit Elias Ginsberg

When Rabbi Shlomo was asked why he chose this subject at this time he responded, “It is the time of the year in the Hebrew calendar when we mourn the destruction of the Temple – the 17th of Tammuz and 9th of Av (July 11th and August 1st). This is a time of sorrowful reflection for the Jewish people around the world, and a time that will always be a part of our history. I think it is a good opportunity to focus on why Jerusalem is so important to Jews.”

The 17th of Tammuz (Shiv'ah Asar b'Tammuz) commemorates the breach of the walls of Jerusalem before the destruction of the Second Temple. It marks the beginning of the three-week mourning period leading up to Tisha B'Av (9th of Av). Tisha B'Av commemorates the anniversary of a number of disasters in Jewish history, primarily the destruction of both the First Temple by the Babylonians and the Second Temple by the Romans in Jerusalem. Tisha B'Av is regarded as perhaps the saddest day in the Jewish calendar and it is thus believed to be a day which is destined for tragedy.

During these three sessions, Rabbi Shlomo will present the history of Jerusalem – focusing especially on the last years of the second temple. “We will examine the nature and the importance of the city for the Jewish people from religious, social and political aspects. We will also have a brief review of the nature of the city in the Middle Ages,” he explains. As is characteristic of Rabbi Shlomo’s Friday

Learning Series topics, he will relate history to the present day and discuss the city of Jerusalem as it exists today. He will explore what the city represents in the Israeli society and culture, and why some Israelis admire this city while others dislike or even hate it. The city will be seen from its social, economic, and political aspects.

Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich's regular attendees will appreciate that these sessions will maintain the high quality of educational material presented in a systematic and interesting manner that is characteristic of his classes. This is a great opportunity for those who have not yet taken the opportunity to attend to do so with a topic of such importance to Jews. July 14th, 21st, and 28th are the days to mark on your calendar. The Kripke Jewish Federation Library is the location and 11:15 a.m. is the time. As with all Friday Learning Series class, you need not attend all in order to derive the benefits of one – but the more you attend, the more you learn. They are always open to the community free of charge. Rabbi Abramovich is the Scholar in Residence at Beth Israel Synagogue and presents the series in conjunction with the Community Engagement and Education arm of the Jewish Federation of Omaha. For questions, contact Mark Kirchhoff, mkirchhoff@jewishomaha.org or (402) 334-6463.