

Watch for the Return of *Eye on Israel*

By Mark Kirchhoff, Program & Communications Assistant

Through the watchful eye of Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, *Eye on Israel* returns to the Kripke Jewish Federation Library on December 19, 2016, at 12 pm. Under the leadership of various Israeli experts, *Eye on Israel* sessions have been very popular over the years. Rabbi Shlomo is excited to bring you a number of the hot topics that touch the lives of Jews and non-Jews in Israel, the United States, and throughout the world. He will focus on those for the new beginning of the program and for future sessions as well.



Rabbi Shlomo is the Visiting Scholar at Beth Israel Synagogue, having arrived in August from Akko, Israel with his wife, Hodaya, who is teaching at Friedel Jewish Academy, and three children – Silo, 9 years old and in the 4th grade at Friedel, Oz who just turned 6 and is in kindergarten at Friedel, and Malachi, 2 ½ and attending CDC. Rabbi Shlomo earned a B.Ed. and Teaching Certificate from Shaanan College, Haifa, an M.A. in Jewish History from Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, and is in the process of obtaining a Ph.D. in Jewish History from Bar Ilan University. His religious education culminated in Rabbinate Semicha (Rabbinical Ordination) by the chief rabbinate of Israel. Immediately before coming to Omaha, he was Talmud and Jewish-Thought teacher and educator at Yeshivat Hesder of Akko. Rabbi Shlomo served in the IDF as a tank commander. He has been a neighbor and a good friend with Omaha's most recent shaliach, Eliad Eliyahu ben Shushan. They also studied together in the Yeshiva.

Rabbi Shlomo sees a number of burning topics in Israel. The current fires, for example. Those who own homes or businesses in the affected areas are faced with a big difference in livelihood if the current spate of fires is determined to be a result of terrorism rather than natural causes. Rabbi Shlomo will explain the full story during this first session. There are other eye-opening issues as well. The United States has just completed its presidential election campaign cycle and selected its next president. No one can predict the future. No one can formulate lasting conclusions about all of the topics that have arisen throughout the campaign. But nearly everyone can agree that when the relationship between the United States and Israel is strong, when people have mutual respect for one another, and the countries are sharing common goals, both nations benefit. Rabbi Shlomo will lead a discussion about a number of thoughts Israelis are expressing and what they might be hoping for the coming months and years. He will call upon friends in Israel to Skype with him to help sharpen the focus on those items.

Do more than mark your calendar for December 19 at 12 pm in the Kripke Jewish Federation Library. Attend and bring a friend. For those who like to plan well in advance, *Eye on Israel* sessions for 2017 will be Jan. 9, Feb. 13, Mar. 6, Apr. 3, and May 8. Notice that while these are all on Mondays, because of holidays they are not exclusively on either the first or second Monday of the month. Watch for the *Jewish Press* and the Jewish Federation of Omaha's bi-weekly E-NEWS for reminders of dates and times.