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### **Class to Explore Jewish History – Which is Your History**

Rabbi Shlomo Abramovich, Ph.D, and Visiting Scholar for Beth Israel Synagogue has a true passion for Jewish history. So much so, he received his degree in the field and shares his passion whenever he is given the opportunity. Rabbi Shlomo will share his enthusiasm and passion each week during his new class “Jewish History – Your History” each **Monday at 12 noon** beginning **August 23**. Classes will be held at Beth Israel

“I found history fascinating and I like teaching it” says Rabbi Shlomo. “I think that the best stories and characters can be found in our history, more than in any fiction book. For me, however, it is much more than an interesting field of studying. I believe that knowing the history is fundamental for understanding our life and our nation. Through learning the history, the Jewish identity is being revealed.”

In this class, Rabbi Shlomo plans to cover the main events of Jewish history. Each class will focus on one period, covering the main happenings, conflicts, and achievements of the Jewish people in that during that time. While he recognizes everything cannot be covered in such a short time, he believes students will receive a wide perspective of the Jewish history from which everyone can benefit. “My goal will be to make an order in the names, places and events we have all heard of, but are not sure when and where they happened, and what happened before what” he concludes.

Rabbi Shlomo commented that knowing your history is knowing who you really are, adding that why is think this class is important to everyone who is interesting in strengthening his Jewish identity. “A source that give me a great deal of inspiration is a letter written by Rav Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel serving during World War 1” tells Rabbi Shlomo. “Rav Kook was in London, and could not go back to Israel, and wrote letters to encourage his followers in Israel. Rav Kook was amazed by the horrors of the war he experienced in England, and one of his conclusions was that we needed to learn history.” Rav Kook explained that two books were given to us by Hashem: the Torah and the history, the human events, which are controlled by the All Mighty. Rav Kook believed that just as we need to dig deep and reveal God’s will in the Torah, we need to learn the history, and reveal the ways He manage the world through it.”

“Jewish History – Your History” does not require any previous knowledge and is open to the entire community. Varied sources and materials will be utilized to present history in a professional and interesting way. A bagel lunch is available if ordered in advance by calling the Beth Israel office by 11 a.m. the day of class. Please note one day a month, the class will be held in the Kripke Jewish Federation Library immediately following “Eye on Israel”. For additional information, please call (402) 556-6288 or email [sabramovich@orthodoxomaha.org](mailto:sabramovich@orthodoxomaha.org).