

Klutznick Learning Series Begins February 8

By Mark Kirchhoff



The **2016 Klutznick Learning Series** kicks off Monday, **February 8 from 7-8:30 pm** in the Social Hall at the JCC. This year's series, sponsored by the fund of the Klutznick Chair of Jewish Civilization at Creighton University, is

titled *Pirkei Avot: Ancient Wisdom in the Modern World*. Additional sessions will be held on **February 15** and **22** also beginning at 7 pm.

Each evening will feature two topics from Pirkei Avot. Each topic will include two 15-minute discussions: a clergy member will lead the first section, followed by a discussion on the same topic by a lay member of the community. A Q & A time will follow. The sessions will be unique, hopefully a bit entertaining and will definitely make you consider new ideas. Unable to attend each week? Not a problem as each session is stand alone.

February 8, 7 pm, JCC Social Hall

Cantor Hazzan Michael Krausman of Beth El Synagogue and **Dr. Aryeh Epstein** who is currently enrolled in the M.D. Ph.D. Scholars Program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in the field of neuroscience lead off the series at 7 pm with a discussion of Pirkei Avot 2.2: "...Fitting is learning in Torah along with a craft, for the labor put into the two of them makes one forget sin..." Cantor Krausman will discuss the topic from the religious perspective. Dr. Epstein will focus on the critical melding of education and hands-on in the world of medicine, specifically in the UNMC MD/PhD program. The second half of the session will begin at approximately **7:45pm** with **Rabbi Mendel Katzman**, Executive Director of Chabad-Lubavitch opening a discussion on Pirkei Avot 4.13 – "Rabbi Simeon says: There are three crowns – The crown of Torah, the crown of priesthood, and the crown of sovereignty – But the crown of a good name transcends them all." Rabbi Katzman will be followed by **Jacob Kahn**, Health Educator with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland focusing on social media and how it can affect the good names of teens, adults, and businesses.

February 15, 7 pm, JCC Social Hall

Rabbi Aryeh Azriel, Senior Rabbi at Temple Israel, and **Dr. Joan Latchaw**, Associate Professor of English at UNO, will discuss the Pirkei Avot that advises "not [to] be like servants who serve the master on condition of receiving a reward..." Dr. Latchaw commented will be drawing from her work in Nicaragua as part of the discussion. **Rabbi Steven Abraham** of Beth El Synagogue will lead the next session by discussing Pirkei Avot 1.2 – "Simeon the Righteous was one of the last survivors of the great assembly. He would say: On three things does the world stand: On the Torah, And on the Temple Service, And on deeds of loving kindness." Rabbi Abraham's co-presenter will be **Dan Gilbert**, Chief Operating Officer for Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance.

February 22, 7 pm, JCC Social Hall

The final evening of the Klutznick Learning Series will feature **Rabbi Yaakov Weiss**, Assistant Rabbi at Beth Israel Synagogue and **Jeremy Wright**, licensed mental health practitioner, discussing the perplexing questions from Pirkei Avot 1:14 – “If I am not for myself, who is for me? And when I am for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?” The final discussion of the series will feature **Dr. Leonard Greenspoon** and his co-discussant, attorney **Richard Fellman**, who will each take the microphone for a discussion regarding the directive to love work and to be wary of government.

The series is available **free of charge** due to the generous financial support from the fund of the Klutznick Chair of Jewish Civilization at Creighton University. **Please call (402) 334-6463 or email mkirchhoff@jewishomaha.org with any questions.** The Klutznick Learning Series is a program of the Center for Jewish Life whose mission is to maximize involvement of Omaha’s Jewish community in imaginative, compelling and meaningful Jewish experiences.