

SHARI & LAMB CHOP

Sunday, April 11, 7:00 PM

Discussion Leader: Gordon N Zuckerman

| 2023 | 92 min. | USA | English

Enter the enchanting world of a groundbreaking artist Shari Lewis, and her beloved sock puppet companion, Lamb Chop, whose boundless creativity and timeless joy have left an indelible mark. Hailing from a Jewish Bronx family, Shari Lewis rose from playful beginnings in the 1950s with her engaging children's variety shows, amassing an impressive collection of accolades and becoming an adored star recognized for her sundry talents as a ventriloquist, singer, dancer, and even a magician. In a male-dominated industry, Lewis, a spunky perfectionist, transformed children's television with an innovative, empowering style, and through Lamb Chop, voiced new notions for the women of her time. This fascinating biography melds archival footage, TV clips, and interviews, exploring the bond between performer and her puppet. Sure to awaken cherished childhood memories, this heartfelt mix of nostalgia and showbiz insights honors a visionary spirit, kindling the imaginations of dreamers and storytellers across generations. **Directed by Lisa D'Apolito.**



\$10 JCC member, \$15 guest paying cash or check at the door

\$8, \$13 with prepayment to the JCC 24 hours before each screening.
(\$8.24, \$13.39 when paying with credit card)

The film price includes refreshments
provided by the SJCC and by 518Kosher

PLEASE NOTE: FILMS ARE SCREENED ON DIFFERENT DAYS AND TIMES

MOST FILMS ARE INTENDED FOR AN ADULT AUDIENCE

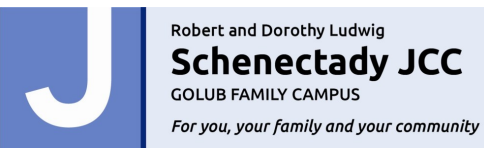
PLEASE NOTE: SOMETIMES THERE ARE CHANGES THAT ARE NOT IN OUR CONTROL. PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE OR CALL THE JCC PRIOR TO FILMS TO BE NOTIFIED OF ANY CHANGES.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE:

Erica & Len Berger, Art Clayman, Alex Hallenstein, Elaine Klein, Paul Santilli, Gail Sternstein

For more information, please call Judy Ben-Ami
at (518) 377-8803 or email judyb@schenectadyjcc.org

This program was made possible through the generous support of the *JCC Friends of the Arts and Culture*, the Epstein Jewish Cultural Fund, Meyer and Mary Kurland/Gebell Fund, Jonas and Edith Flemiberg Jewish Cultural Fund, the Jewish World, and by a grant from the Schenectady County Legislature through its County Initiative Program. Refreshments are provided by the Schenectady JCC and 518KOSHER.



2565 Balltown Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309
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★ WITH DISCUSSIONS ON REMARKABLE FILMS ★



TATAMI



ONCE UPON MY MOTHER



A REAL PAIN



MY FATHER'S SECRETS



SHARI & LAMB CHOP



YANIV



BURT

A NOTE FROM THE FILM COMMITTEE

You don't have to travel to New York City to watch outstanding world cinema. You can watch great, award winning films right here in Schenectady, on a large screen, *with free drinks and snacks!* Drama, Comedy, Documentary, Animation, appealing to all movie goers, highlight this season's Festival. We invite all lovers of cinema to join us in this unique opportunity to watch award-winning films and share ideas in a lively discussion following each viewing.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



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TATAMI

Saturday October 17, 7:00 PM
Discussion Leader: Professor Stephen Berk
| 2025 | 103 min. | Georgia/Iran/Israel | Farsi/English

Tatami resonates as both a thrilling sports drama and a searing political statement on the resilience and bravery of Iranian women seeking self-determination.

Filmed during the protests in Iran in 2022, and set during one intense day at a World Championship event in Tbilisi, Georgia (where it was secretly filmed), the film follows rising Iranian judo fighter Leila and her coach Maryam, who travel to the championship intent on bringing home Iran’s first gold medal. Just as Leila is nearing victory, a chilling ultimatum arrives from the Islamic Republic declaring she must fake an injury and lose to avoid facing an Israeli opponent, or be branded a traitor to her country. With her freedom and her family’s safety on the line, Leila confronts an agonizing choice: follow her government’s orders, or fight for her dream. Tatami is notable for being the first film ever **co-directed by an Israeli and an Iranian filmmakers: DireGuy Nattiv & Amir Ebrahimi.**



BURT

Sunday November 15, 7:00 PM
Discussion Leader: Joe Burke, Film Director (via Zoom)
Discussion Facilitator: Jane Ginsburg, Jewish Family Services (JFS)
| 2025 | 78 min. | USA | English

Burt, a 69-year-old street musician living with Parkinson’s, has his life turned upside down when Sammy, a wayward young man from New York, shows up claiming to be his son. Having always dreamed of being a father, Burt embraces Sammy and invites him to stay for the weekend at his home, where he lives with his grumpy landlord, Steve. Inspired by the real life of singer/songwriter Burt Berger, who stars in the film alongside actor Oliver Cooper, this movie blurs the line between reality and fiction with disarming authenticity. An instant laugh-out-loud-and-cry indie darling. The movie is a powerful love letter to Burt, his music, and the filmmaker’s own father, who also lives with Parkinson’s. **Directed by Joe Burke**



YANIV

December 13, 3:00 PM
| 2023 | 80 min. | USA | English
With a Yaniv game following the film!

This vivid and enjoyable movie immerses us in a world, and shows us how that world works. The story of Yaniv traces the journey of two desperate high-school teachers from the Bronx who become embroiled in a high-stakes caper that is way over their heads. Their misadventure begins with noble intentions, as they try, albeit unsuccessfully, to secure funding for a spring musical production for their students. Their unconventional solution? Infiltrating an underground card game called “Yaniv” run by an ultra-Orthodox Jewish group, all in pursuit of claiming the coveted prize money. However, despite their best-laid plans, chaos ensues, resulting in a riotous, comedic unraveling with moments of profound depth and heartwarming warmth. **Directed by Amnon Carmi**



A REAL PAIN

Saturday, January 16 at 7:00 PM
Discussion Leader: Rabbi Raffi Spitzer, Congregation Agudat Achim
| 2024 90 min. | English | USA

Two mismatched Jewish cousins, David (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji (Kieran Culkin) reunite for a tour through Poland to honor their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the pair’s old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history.

Eisenberg and Culkin give devastating, funny performances as characters grappling with their grandmother’s history and the ways their own lives have diverged. While Benji’s irreverent charm only partially masks his deep melancholy, David’s frustration with and genuine love for his cousin become achingly clear. A poignant, funny exploration of the unexpected permutations of intergenerational trauma, and a sensitively drawn reckoning of the legacy of World War II among the survivors of survivors. **Directed by Jesse Eisenberg.**



ONCE UPON MY MOTHER

Saturday, February 6, at 7:00 PM
Discussion Leader: Jaime Hollander, LCSW
| 2025 | 102 min. | France/Canada | French (w/subtitles)

A sweeping, laughter-through-tears family saga spanning from 1960s Paris to the present, this exuberant crowd-pleaser traces a Moroccan-Jewish mother’s unshakable belief that love, faith, and sheer willpower can rewrite her son’s destiny. Leila Bekhti delivers a radiant, powerhouse turn as Esther Perez, a spirited immigrant whose world is upended when she’s told her newborn son has a severe clubfoot and will never walk. Inspired by Roland Perez’s bestselling memoir, this French box-office sensation radiates warmth, humor, and irresistible emotional uplift. Blending laugh-out-loud humor with deeply moving moments, *Once Upon My Mother* is a universal celebration of the extraordinary lengths parents will go for their children. Vibrantly shot by Academy Award-nominated cinematographer Guillaume Schiffman, the film bursts with color, energy, and the nostalgic sounds of French pop classics—including iconic songs by Jewish music legend Sylvie Vartan, who makes a delightful cameo appearance. **Directed by Ken Scott.**



MY FATHER'S SECRETS

Saturday, March 13, 7:30 PM
Discussion Leader: Arnie Rotenberg, Director of Jewish Living, CGOH
| 2022 | 74 min. | Belgium/France | English/French
PG-13 Film. Teens are welcome!

A Belgian boy is haunted by his father’s refusal to reveal his past as a Holocaust survivor, in this sensitive post-war coming-of-age animated tale of generational trauma and healing. Michel is a typical 12-year-old, an occasional misfit with a budding interest in girls, often irritated by his tag-along younger brother. He has little grasp of his Jewish heritage or his reclusive, at times gruff father who retreats inward, toiling away over a mysterious diary. As the silence deepens the gulf between father and son, familial friction culminates in a long-overdue reckoning. Elliott Gould voices the titular father, with lustrous 2D animation capturing the spirit of illustrator Michel Kichka’s autobiographical graphic novel on which the film is based. **Directed by Vera Belmont.**

