

2565 Balltown Road
 Niskayuna, NY 12309
 518-377-8803
 www.schenectadyjcc.org

Partner Agency of
Jewish Federation
 OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK



The Film Festival is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Northeastern NY. This program was made possible through the generous support of the JCC Friends of the Arts, 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.

SCHENECTADY JCC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

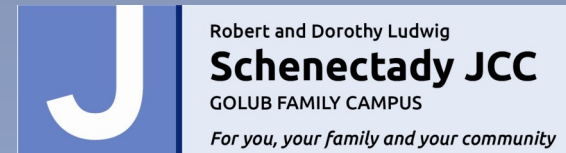
- THE JEWISH JAIL LADY AND THE HOLY THIEF** Saturday, September 21, 2024, 8:00 PM
- BEYOND OCTOBER 7TH: THE STORY OF THE GAD FAMILY FROM BE'ERI** Saturday, October 26, 7:30 PM
- STAY WITH US** Saturday, November 16, 7:30 PM
- NO NAME RESTAURANT** Saturday, December 14, 7:30 PM
- IRENA'S VOW** Saturday, January 25, 7:30 PM
- ALL ABOUT THE LEVKOVICHES** Saturday, February 15, 7:30 PM
- AUCTION** Saturday, March 8, 7:30 PM
- REVENGE: OUR DAD THE NAZI KILLER** Sunday, April 27, 7:00 PM
- LEONARD BERNSTEIN AND THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC** Sunday, May 18, 6:00 PM Dinner, 7:30 PM Film

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



2024 - 2025

SCHENECTADY JCC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL





LEV for Rosh Hashanah



Kids in the new Sukkah



Holiday Celebrations



Challah Baking



Art Session for Seniors



July 2024

Dear Friends of Culture and Arts,

This year, more than ever, it was important for us to offer a myriad of Israel-oriented programs and events in addition to the selection that we regularly offer, including in-person and virtual programs based on culture, education, arts and music.

We showed eight award-winning films featuring themes of universal interest themes as part of our highly acclaimed Jewish Film Festival. We offered a curated series of five classes explaining Israel, past and present.

We had several family-oriented events to celebrate Jewish holidays, as well as our popular "LEV" social monthly program, which offer Seniors different hands-on educational and enriching opportunities, and many more.

The success of these programs depends on your continued support. Our exciting 2024-2025 season will include our signature programs among other new initiatives. Your generous contribution is greatly appreciated and it will go directly to continue offering these great programs.

We look forward to seeing you this coming season!

Debra Belkin
Jewish Cultural
Committee Chair

Alex Hallenstein
Jewish Cultural
Committee Member

Judy Ben-Ami
Jewish Cultural and Adult
Programming Director

Oscar, \$360 (Includes Two 2024-2025 Season Film Festival Season Passes) _____

Director, \$180 (Includes One 2024-2025 Season Film Festival Season Pass) _____

Producer, \$100 _____ Star, \$50 _____ Friend, \$36 _____ Other, \$ _____

(Please make a check payable to SJCC and write on the memo line Friend of Jewish Arts)

I would like my/our name(s) listed as follows:

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Credit Cards VISA _____ MasterCard _____ American Express _____ Discover _____

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Signature _____



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SCHENECTADY JCC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

FILM ORDER FORM

Film price includes refreshments

Festival pass (9 Films): \$85 _____ \$45, JCC Member discount _____
(\$87.55, \$46.35 when paying with a debit or credit card)

Total amount enclosed: _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Credit Card VISA _____ MasterCard _____ American Express _____ Discover _____

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Credit Card _____ Phone # _____

Please make your check payable to *Schenectady JCC* and return it with this form to the *Schenectady JCC*, 2565 Balltown Road, Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Individual films: \$13 \$7 JCC Member discount

(\$13.39, \$7.21 when paying with a credit card)

Please check our website for the meal price on April.

Free for students with ID

Please Note: Most films are intended for an adult audience

For more information, please call Judy Ben-Ami at (518) 377-8803

A Special Thank You to the Jewish Film Festival Committee:

Chair: Debra Belkin

Erica & Len Berger, Ellen Blake, Alex Hallenstein,
Art Clayman, Elaine Klein, Gail Sternstein

CEO: David Posner

Campus Director: Andy Katz

Jewish Cultural & Adult Programming Director: Judy Ben-Ami



DRAMA

AUCTION

Saturday, March 8 , 7:30 PM

Discussion Leader: Kayla Carlsen, Executive Director of the Albany Institute of History and Art

2024, 91 Min., France, French with English subtitles

Based on true events, hotshot opportunist wheeler-art dealer André Masson receives a letter concerning the discovery of a painting in a factory worker’s home in the suburbs on the Alsatian border. Said painting, by Austrian expressionist Egon Schiele, had been long assumed lost, condemned and destroyed as “degenerate art” by the Nazis in 1939. Masson’s first reaction is to believe that it can only be a copy. He decides to make the trip to examine it, and, against all odds, the painting turns out to be the masterpiece that has gone missing. This could undoubtedly be the turning point of his career, but after a brief investigation, he realizes that he has in his hands a looted work of art. Director: Pascal Bonitzer



DOCUMENTARY

REVENGE: OUR DAD THE NAZI KILLER

Sunday, April 27, 7:00 PM

Discussion Leader: Professor Stephen Berk

2023,101 min., Australia, English

This documentary follows three Jewish brothers in Melbourne who stumble on a family secret: their father, a Holocaust survivor and WWII partisan, allegedly went to Sydney in the 1950s to undertake a revenge killing against a Nazi. As they delve into the past, they unexpectedly unearth a web of Nazi networks Down Under, covert Jewish vigilante groups, and multiple cases of Nazis who mysteriously died or disappeared in post-WWII Australia. All of this occurs in the context of Cold War intrigue, with antisemitism at the highest level of government. A gripping story that poses the moral question of when, if ever, is it justified to take the law into your own hands? Director: Danny Ben-Moshe



DOCUMENTARY MUSIC

LEONARD BERNSTEIN & THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC

Sunday, May 18

6:00 PM Israeli-Style Dinner

7:30 PM Film

2022, 47 min., USA

Leonard Bernstein was one of the most celebrated Jewish musicians of all time. This new 45-minute documentary, commissioned by American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic, tracks the decades-long relationship between the maestro and the orchestra. The film includes interviews, archival images and a special video footage. The film is hosted and directed by playwright, actor and pianist Hershey Felder.

Thank You To Our Festival Sponsors!

Partner Agency of
Jewish Federation
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK



Schenectady County Legislature
through its County Initiative Program

And Individual Film Co-sponsors

- * **518 KOSHER**
- * **Congregation Beth Shalom**
- * **Mithabrim - A JCC Association of North America Program Accelerator and the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs**

**In addition, this program was made possible through the generous support of:
The Epstein Jewish Cultural Fund, The Meyer & Mary Kurland/Gebell Fund
and The Jonas and Edith Flemberg Jewish Cultural Fund**

Thank you to our 2024 – 2025 Friends of the Arts

As of August 20, 2024

Oscars

Andrea & Bryan Goldberger

Jeff & Barbara Walton

Stars

Jan Altschuler

Erica & Len Berger

Ellen Blake

Josie Kivort

Directors

Rhoda & Bill Gilbert

Brian R. Haak

Alex & Betty Hallenstein

Mike & Michelle Jerison

Alice Rubenfeld

Friends

Ann Cramer

Barbara Kramer

Amy Landauer-Ruder

& Adam Ruder

Gail Sternstein

Producers

Shel & Shelley Abelson

Debra & Randy Belkin

Rabbi Matt & Sharon Cutler

Boris & Julia Gisin

David & Paula Garwood

Paul & Kristie Santilli

Richard and Alice Toll



OPENING DAY - DOCUMENTARY

THE JEWISH JAIL LADY AND THE HOLY THIEF

Saturday, September 21, 8 PM

Discussion Leader: Bill Gilbert

2022, 57 min., USA, English

This gleefully profane film is remarkably inspiring and truly special: An ex-con turned rabbi and a nice Jewish girl who liked bad boys... together, they've saved thousands of lives. How can two individuals who hurt many people and made many mistakes, end up saving *thousands* of lives? The film follows the dark, troubled, often unbelievable pasts of Rabbi Mark Borovitz and Harriet Rossetto, as their journeys not only lead them to one another, but to the formation of Beit T'Shuvah, a one-of-a-kind Jewish recovery and treatment center known around the globe.

Directors: Barry Rosenthal and Victor Velle.

Winner of Las Vegas Award of Excellence



REAL LIFE DOCUMENTARY

BEYOND OCTOBER 7:

THE STORY OF THE GAD FAMILY FROM BE'ERI

Saturday, October 26, 7:30 PM

Discussion Leader: Avi Melamed, Inside the Middle East Expert

This program is cohosted by Mithabrim - A JCC Association of North America Program Accelerator and the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs

2024, 67 Min., Israel, Hebrew with English Translation

Three generations of the Gad family physically survived the devastating assault by Hamas on October 7th. This intimate documentary begins just two days after their rescue from the massacre, capturing the family's painful struggle with shock, trauma, and grief at both personal and communal levels. Every family member copes differently with the aftermath. Their closest friends were either murdered or abducted, their homes lost, yet they continue to fight for the survival of Be'eri's community while struggling to avoid despair. Despite their fears and anguish, a sliver of hope glimmers in the eyes of each member, from grandparents to grandchildren. As they muster the will to restore the once lush, green kibbutz they fled from under fire, one question remains: Will they ever return to Be'eri?

STAY WITH US

Saturday, November 16, 7:30 PM

Discussion Leader: Rabbi Rafi Spitzer

2023, 93 min., France, French with English subtitles

French-Jewish entertainer Gad Elmaleh (one of France's best-loved comedians) takes a journey of spiritual discovery in this poignant, warmly humorous self-portrait. Fusing fictional and autobiographical elements, Elmaleh directs and stars alongside his Jewish-Moroccan actual family in this religious "coming out." Harboring a crisis of faith, Gad returns home to Paris after some years in America. When his bewildered parents discover a figurine of the Virgin Mary in his suitcase, he is forced to admit his secret — and for them, it's a nightmare. Delicately facing a difficult topic, this affirmation of faith and family features many moving, semi-improvised performances. *Stay With Us* puts a unique spin on humanity's age-old search for truth. Director: Gad Elmaleh

COMEDY, SEMI-DOCUMENTARY



ISRAELI COMEDY

NO NAME RESTAURANT

Saturday, December 14, 7:30 PM

Discussion Leader: Howard Gross, 518 KOSHER Owner

This program is cohosted by 518 KOSHER

2023, 120 min., Germany, English

To save the once-largest Jewish community in the world from being shut down in Alexandria, Egypt, an ultra-orthodox Brooklyn Jew, Ben, is sent out to be the desperately needed tenth man to celebrate Passover in this heartwarming tale. But when he misses his flight and gets stranded in the middle of the Sinai desert after being kicked off a bus, he finds himself in a perilous situation. His only hope arrives in the form of a grumpy Bedouin man in search of his lost camel. In an endearing twist of fate, these two men from opposite ends of the world must overcome their differences and learn to work together to survive. Winner of several international prizes, this buddy comedy wrings plenty of emotion and joy from a most unlikely friendship. Directors: Stefan Sarazin & Peter Keller



TRUE LIFE DRAMA

IRENA'S VOW

Saturday, January 25, 7:30 PM

Discussion Leader: Rabbi Amiel Monson

This program is cohosted by Congregation Beth Shalom

2023, 121 min., Canada-Poland, English

In occupied Poland, a former nurse risks her own life to shelter a dozen Jewish men and women from the Nazi war machine in this unforgettable tale of bravery and sacrifice. Set in 1939, when the Nazis invade Poland, nurse Irena Gut is displaced and forced to work in support of the German war effort, running the home of a Nazi commandant. Instead of following the path of least resistance and gambling on her status and ethnicity to keep her safe, she risks everything to save a dozen Jewish refugees from murder, sheltering them under her boss's nose. *Irena's Vow* is, at its heart, a story of simple moral clarity, in which, the empathetic Sophie Néliste is forced, over and over again, to negotiate an impossible situation to ensure not just her friends' survival, but her own. Director: Louise Archambault



COMEDY, SEMI-DOCUMENTARY



DRAMATIC COMEDY

ALL ABOUT THE LEVKOVICHES

Saturday, February 15, 7:30 PM

Discussion Leaders: Peter & BJ Rosenfeld, Ed & Andrea Leighton

2023, 85 min., Hungary, Hungarian & Hebrew with English subtitles

In this heartwarming family comedy, an elderly boxing coach, known for his generosity but stubbornness, finds it easy to connect with everyone except his own son. Their strained relationship has resulted in years of silence, to the point where the old man has never even met his grandson, who moved to Israel with his father and adopted an Orthodox Jewish lifestyle. However, when the old man's wife unexpectedly passes away, the family is brought back together for her funeral. As they sit shiva and mourn for a week, they embark on a journey of re-discovery, healing, and understanding. Director: Ádám Breier