



24th MANDELL JCC
HARTFORD
JEWISH
FILM FEST

MARCH 5-15, 2020

HJFF.ORG



MANDELL JCC
Greater Hartford

Zachs Campus | 335 Bloomfield Ave. | West Hartford, CT 06117 | www.mandelljcc.org



FILM SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	FILM	VENUE	PAGE
Thurs. March 5	6:00 PM Dinner 7:30 PM Film	Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles	MJCC	7
Sat. March 7	8:00 PM	Tel Aviv on Fire	AMCB	9
Sun. March 8	1:00 PM	Crescendo	SPOT	11
	1:00 PM	Picture of His Life	SPOT	13
	3:00 PM	Aulcie	SPOT	15
	3:00 PM	Reports on Sarah and Saleem	SPOT	17
Mon. March 9	5:30 PM	King Bibi	MJCC	19
Tues. March 10	5:30 PM	Ma'abarot	MJCC	21
	7:30 PM	Saul and Ruby: To Life!	MJCC	23
Wed. March 11	1:30 PM Senior Screen	Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles	MJCC	7
	7:00 PM	Song of Names	AMCB	25
	7:00 PM	The Keeper	AMCB	27
Thur. March 12	5:30 PM	City of Joel	MJCC	29
	7:30 PM (with post discussion)	Holy Silence	MJCC	31
Sat. March 14	8:00 PM	Latter Day Jew	MJCC	33
Sun. March 15	12:00 PM	Mossad	AMCB	35
	12:00 PM	Advocate	AMCB	37
	2:30 PM	Incitement	AMCB	39
	2:30 PM	Those Who Remained	AMCB	41
	7:00 PM	My Name is Sara	MJCC	43
Thurs. March 19	7:00 PM	Viral: Antisemitism in Four Mutations	MJCC	45

Mandell JCC Box Office: 860-231-6316 phone | 860-231-0802 fax | tickets@hjff.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Opening Night | Mandell JCC

Thursday, March 5,
6:00 pm Dinner/7:30 pm Film
Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles
\$36 per person in advance,
Includes Dinner and Film.

Senior Screen | Mandell JCC

Wednesday, March 11, 1:30 pm
Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles
Free for Seniors (70+). Tickets Required.

Post Film Discussion | Mandell JCC

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 pm
Holy Silence
Tickets Required

Closing Night | Mandell JCC

Mandell JCC
Sunday, March 15, 7:00 pm
My Name is Sara
\$25 per person
Includes Film and Dessert Reception.

Reel Israel: A Panel Discussion

Monday, March 23, 7:00 pm
*Panelists: Jeremy Pressman, Avinoam Patt
and Tom Wainrich*
Free and Open to the Community

TICKET PRICES

General Admission

(Excluding opening and closing night):
\$12 Advance Purchase/\$15 at the Door

Discounts

Group Discounts available.
Contact the box office.

Parking - Hartford

Free parking on Sunday, March 8 at
the Spotlight Theatres for the Front
Street South Garage, courtesy of LAZ
Parking. Please take a ticket at the
garage entrance. Validated passes will
be available at the box office.

VENUES

Mandell JCC (MJCC)

Mandell JCC, Zachs Campus
335 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
860-236-4571 | www.mandelljcc.org

Spotlight Theatres (SPOT)

39 Front Street
Hartford, CT 06105
860-422-7712 | www.spotlighttheatres.com

AMC Classic Bloomfield 8 (BLM8)

863 Park Avenue
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860-286-7900 | www.amctheatres.com

Directions to all venues: HJFF.ORG

COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS

The Gilman Theater at the Mandell JCC has recently been equipped with a new hearing assistance system. This system includes earpieces and is also compatible with most hearing aids. Please ask for a receiver at the Member Services Center. The Hearing Assistance System is made possible by a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation.

The Mandell JCC will make every effort to provide other effective communication resources that are requested at least 14 days in advance of our programs. Contact Sheri Gaudet, 860-231-6351 or sgaudet@mandelljcc.org.



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2020 Hartford Jewish Film Festival. This year we present 20 outstanding films, celebrating the richness of the Jewish experience through film. Whether the film is a dramatic feature, documentary, narrative, comedy, or short, there is a commonality of reflection through a Jewish lens. These carefully curated films touch our history through tragedies and triumphs, laughter and love, and from sorrow to celebration. Take this journey with us and explore the full spectrum of Jewish life, values and culture.

The curtain rises on March 5th with *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*, a joyous documentary chronicling the birth, life, and continued resonance of the iconic *Fiddler on the Roof*. Feature films include *Song of Names*, *The Keeper*, *Crescendo*, and *Those Who Remained*, all big screen stories beautifully told. We also explore fascinating, funny, and contentious aspects of Israel's past and present through the films *Advocate*, *Incitement*, *Ma'abarot*, *King Bibi*, *The Reports on Sarah and Saleem*, and *Tel Aviv on Fire*. Join us after the festival on Monday, **March 23rd** (details page 18) to discuss their impact and implications for Israel's future.

Our commitment to riveting documentaries continues this season with *Holy Silence*, which addresses the controversial debate over the role of the Vatican during the Holocaust, and *City of Joel*, an absorbing account of a high-profile turf war between the ultra-Orthodox community of Kiryas Joel in upstate New York and its neighbors. Three films profile larger than life men in life-changing stories: *Aulcie*, the sequel to the internationally recognized cinema sensation *On The Map* (HJFF 2017), recounts the true-life story of Maccabi Tel Aviv's soul, Aulcie Perry. *Picture of His Life* is an exploration of the life of world-famous underwater photographer Amos Nachoum, and *Saul & Ruby, To Life!* salutes a pair of Holocaust survivor musicians who pursue a message of peace amidst rising antisemitism.

Get ready to laugh with *Latter Day Jew*, a coming-of-age story about a gay, former-Mormon, cancer survivor who converted to Judaism at the age of 34, as we watch him prepare for his bar mitzvah, and *Mossad*, the laugh-a-minute Israeli box office smash.

My Name is Sara, a powerful saga of courage and compassion based on the astonishing true-life story of Sara Góralnik, will mark our Tribute evening, LESSONS FROM THE HOLOCAUST.

True to our mission, when a film is too important to miss (even after final selections have been made), our festival will continue with an added screening for the powerful documentary *VIRAL: Antisemitism in Four Mutations*, an in-depth look at the rise of antisemitism today through the eyes of some of those most affected in the US, France, the UK and Hungary.

From the first Festival to this year's 24th, we owe endless gratitude to the generosity of the Mandell JCC Pillars Society and Pacesetters, the Mandell JCC Corporate Partners, the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and agency partners, and the numerous organizations and businesses, donors large and small, who make this Festival possible.

And, of course, this Festival is a labor of love, hard work, and countless screening hours by a committee of amazing volunteers and the tireless support of the Mandell JCC staff.

See you at the movies...

Avi, Jennifer, Michael, Richard and Jill

Mandell JCC 2020 Committee Hartford Jewish Film Festival

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*Printing and postage of the
Jewish Film Festival brochure
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LAZ Parking and the Lazowski family, are proud to be aligned with the Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival, a perfect partnership.

We are thrilled to sponsor Opening Night.

Kudos to the Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival on 24 years of enlightening our world.

OPENING NIGHT

Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles

Thursday, March 5, 7:00 PM | Mandell JCC



Cynthia Lahm & Barry Lazowski
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Dana & David Lazowski
Mikayla, Ari & Jenna

Opening Night

Thursday, March 5, 6:00 PM Dinner/7:30 PM Film | Mandell JCC

Tickets: \$36 - Includes Dinner and Film

FIDDLER: A Miracle of Miracles

Documentary | 2019 | USA | 92 min | English
Directed by Max Lewkowicz

Among the pantheon of Broadway musicals that changed the world, *Fiddler on the Roof* has a special place very near the top. In the half-century since its premiere, the production has had an unprecedented global impact. Opening in 1964, *Fiddler on the Roof* held the record for the longest running musical for almost 10 years, won nine Tony Awards, and spawned five Broadway revivals. Beloved by audiences the world over, it has been performed everywhere from suburban middle schools in Nebraska to grand state theaters in Japan.

Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles chronicles the birth, life, and continued resonance of this singular icon of the stage and screen.

Screens with: *The Fiddle*, Israel, 9 min.
Based on Sholem Aleichem's short story "The Fiddle," is the story of Sholom, the boy that was destined to become the fiddler on the roof.

Encore:

Wednesday, March 11, 1:30 PM
(Senior Screen Free for Seniors 70+ with ticket)

TEVYE'S DELI

Opens at 6:00 PM
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The Hollywood Reporter

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L'chaim!

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SATURDAY, MARCH 7



Saturday, March 7, 8:00 PM | AMC Bloomfield

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door



DETAILS ON PAGE 18

TEL AVIV ON FIRE

The Comedy That Crosses
Borders And Breaks Boundaries

Feature | 2018 | Luxembourg, France, Israel, Belgium

97min | Arabic & Hebrew w/ English subtitles

Directed by Sameh Zoabi

Written by Dan Kleinman, Sameh Zoabi

Winner of top prizes at the Haifa and Venice film festivals, this satire follows Salam, a winsome slacker, as he fails upwards at his job on a sudsy Palestinian TV soap opera "Tel Aviv on Fire," popular with both Israelis and Palestinians. Salam's daily commute from the Ramallah set through the Israeli checkpoint leads to regular encounters with the IDF officer in charge. When the officer demands Salam change the show's story line to make his wife happy, Salam struggles with concocting plot twists to suit viewers on both sides.

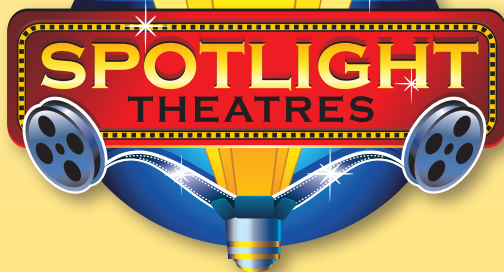
“A comedic take on not just the hostility between Israelis and Palestinians, but also the shared history and culture that bind them.”

The Washington Post

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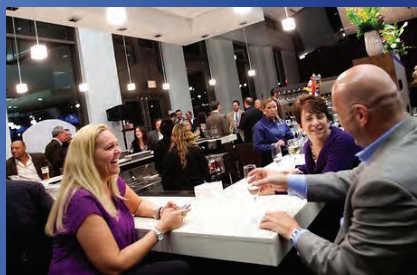


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Photos: Stu Levy



Sunday, March 8, 1:00 PM | Spotlight Hartford

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

Free parking in the Front Street South Garage, courtesy of LAZ Parking. Tickets will be validated at the box office.

CRESCENDO

Feature | 2019 | Germany | 106 Minutes

Directed by Dror Zahavi

Israeli and Palestinian students putting their difference aside to play music together in a youth orchestra sounds like the dream of a naive idealist. While eliminating discord and achieving harmony are undeniably noble undertakings, is music really powerful enough to pierce through years of caustic political discourse and the real-life suffering experienced by both sides of the conflict?

Loosely inspired by Daniel Barenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, a remarkable theatrical movie and contribution to the world-wide efforts towards understanding, humanity and peace.
#makemusicnotwar

“ Director Dror Zahavi brings us a gripping, clear-eyed drama imbued with hope for understanding, humanity, and peace. ”

Film at Lincoln Center

COMMUNITY PARTNER:
**Ellen Jeanne
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Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

Free parking in the Front Street South Garage, courtesy of LAZ Parking. Tickets will be validated at the box office.

PICTURE OF HIS LIFE

Documentary | 2019 | Israel/Canada /USA | 71 min
Hebrew, English and Inuit
Directors Dani Menkin and Yonatan Nir,
Producer Nancy Spielberg

He swam with crocodiles and killer whales, with anacondas and with great white sharks. But one major predator has always eluded Amos Nachoum. The legendary underwater stills photographer always dreamed of swimming underwater with a polar bear and capturing it face-to-face on film. As he prepares to escape to the ominous tranquility of the Arctic Ocean, Amos contemplates the series of unspoken events that drove him here, to the end of the world. The danger is real, perhaps more real than ever, but this is his last chance to get *The Picture of His Life*.

“If you want an exploration of the inner life of a man forged by two generations of Israeli wars — or you just want to see beautiful pictures of polar bears and sharks and other animals — *Picture of His Life* is for you.”

The Jewish Standard

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Sunday, March 8, 3:00 PM | Spotlight Hartford

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

Free parking in the Front Street South Garage, courtesy of LAZ Parking. Tickets will be validated at the box office.

AULCIE

Documentary | 2019 | USA - Israel | 73 min
English and Hebrew with English subtitles
Directed by Dani Menkin

Aulcie, the sequel to the internationally-recognized cinema sensation *On The Map* (HJFF 2017), recounts the true-life story of the “center” of Maccabi Tel Aviv’s soul, Aulcie Perry. Recruited in 1976, after being spotted playing on the famed Rucker Courts in Harlem, Aulcie led the once-obscure team to victory after victory, becoming a household name in the Jewish state. Hailed by Prime Minister Menachem Begin as having brought “honor to the people of Israel,” high praise for a New Jersey-born African American athlete with no Jewish heritage. After the season, to the surprise of many, Aulcie converted to Judaism and became an Israeli citizen. This uplifting film tells the story of a remarkable athlete who captured the spirit of a nation, triumphant and victorious against all odds, and put Israel on the map.

“Perry’s life makes for a fascinating story that is by turns tragic, funny and moving.”

The Jerusalem Post

COMMUNITY PARTNER:
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SUNDAY, MARCH 8



Sunday, March 8, 3:00 PM | Spotlight Hartford

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

Free parking in the Front Street South Garage, courtesy of LAZ Parking. Tickets will be validated at the box office.



DETAILS ON PAGE 18

THE REPORTS ON SARAH AND SALEEM

Feature | 2019 | USA | 127 min

Arabic, Hebrew, English

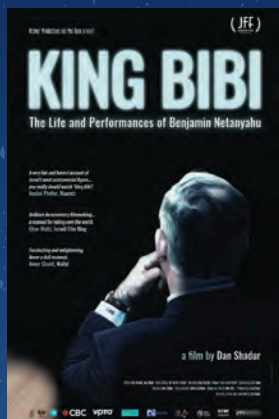
Directed by Muayad Alayan

Saleem is Palestinian from East Jerusalem and works as a deliveryman. Despite being worlds apart, Sarah and Saleem risk everything as they embark on an illicit affair that could tear apart their unsuspecting respective families. When a risky late-night tryst goes awry and threatens to expose them, the two of them look on helplessly as their frantic efforts to salvage what's left of their lives further escalate things. Caught up in the occupying machinery and socio-political pressure, Sarah and Saleem find themselves trapped in a web of deceit and not even the truth looks able to stop it.

“*The Reports on Sarah and Saleem* snaps, crackles and pops. A taut and compelling Jerusalem-set melodrama.”

LA TIMES

COMMUNITY PARTNER:
**The Lynne Gordon
Hartford Jewish Film
Festival Fund**



A PANEL DISCUSSION
Monday, March 23, 7:00 pm
 Free and Open to the Community



MANDELL JCC
 Greater Hartford

Join us as a panel of expert guests explore Israeli society through the lens of 6 Israeli films featured in the 2020 Hartford Jewish Film Festival: *Advocate*, *Incitement*, *Ma'abarot*, *King Bibi*, *The Reports on Sarah and Saleem*, and *Tel Aviv on Fire*.

PANELISTS:

Jeremy Pressman

Associate Professor of Political Science,
 Director of Middle East Studies, UCONN

Avinoam Patt

Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic
 Studies and Director, Center for Judaic
 Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life,
 UCONN

Tom Wainrich

Mandel JCC Israel Program Coordinator



Monday, March 9, 5:30 PM | Mandell JCC

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door



DETAILS ON PAGE 18

KING BIBI

Documentary | 2019 | Israel, USA | 87 min

Hebrew, English subtitles

Directed by Dan Shadur

Brilliantly assembled entirely of footage from countless TV appearances, *King Bibi: The Life and Performances of Benjamin Netanyahu* charts the ascent of Israel's media-savvy prime minister. As his political fortunes rose, Netanyahu quickly perfected his skills as a master of public speaking and media manipulation. Through four decades of news conferences, interviews, and speeches, Israel's second longest-serving prime minister exhibits an obsessive, near-faultless execution of his public image. Deconstructing the man who ushered Israeli politics into the 21st century with an American style of politicking, this potent portrayal reveals a controversial politician's instinct for seizing power through the art of communication.

“A very fair and honest account of Israel's most controversial figure... you really must watch ‘King Bibi’.”

Haaretz



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Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 PM | Mandell JCC

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door



DETAILS ON PAGE 18

MA'ABAROT

Documentary | 2019 | Israel | 84 min

Hebrew, English subtitles

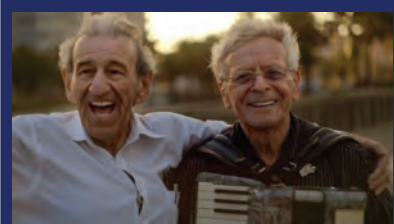
Directed by Dina Zvi Riklis

The transit camps of 1948–1952 were a temporary housing solution to accommodate Israel's surge of immigrants following World War II. Over 300,000 immigrants lived in tents and tin huts in this controversial initiative, contributing to the divide between Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews in Israel. The impact of the camps on the lives of immigrants resonates into contemporary Israeli culture, but has largely been forgotten in the public consciousness. *Ma'abarot* takes a close look at life inside the camps through interviews with former residents, research, and archival footage, shattering misconceptions and offering stark insights into the racial divides that still permeate Israeli society.

Voices of Hope Proudly Presents

Saul & Ruby, To Life!

A feature documentary directed and produced by Tod Lending, an Oscar nominated and national Emmy winning documentary filmmaker.



CONNECTICUT PREMIERE
TUESDAY, MARCH 10
7:30

MANDELL JCC

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Book Launch & Film Screening

April 1, 2020 | 7:00pm | Mandell JCC, Innovation Center

Free & Open to All | Register at <https://mandelljcc.tix.com>

Laughter After: Humor and the Holocaust

Laughter After: Humor and the Holocaust argues that humor performs political, cultural, and social functions in the wake of horror. Co-editors David Slucki, Gabriel N. Finder, and Avinoam Patt have assembled an impressive list of contributors who examine what is at stake in deploying humor in representing the Holocaust.

The Last Laugh (2016, documentary film, 88 minutes)

Are we allowed to make jokes about the Holocaust? This outrageously funny and thought-provoking film puts the question about comedy's ultimate taboo to comedy legends.

Featuring post-film discussion and book launch with film director, Ferne Pearlstein and Robert Edwards, in conversation with Dr. Avinoam Patt.



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AND CONTEMPORARY
JEWISH LIFE



MANDELL JCC
Greater Hartford



Tuesday, March 10, 7:30 PM | Mandell JCC

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

SAUL & RUBY, TO LIFE!

Documentary | 2020 | USA | 80 minutes

English

Directed by Tod Lending

Like many survivors of the Holocaust, after World War II, Saul and Ruby moved to America, started families and careers, grew old, and retired to South Florida. For them, settling near Fort Lauderdale could have been the last chapter in their story. But then, drawing upon the music from their youth in Poland, they started a klezmer band, which they named the Holocaust Survivor Band. In this utterly heart-affecting film, we follow Saul and Ruby's musical journey, from total obscurity to being invited to perform on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. This compelling story is about having the courage to live one's dreams, finding purpose and meaning in life at any age, the transcendent power of music, and the importance of speaking out against anti-Semitism and bigotry.

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Voices of Hope –
Second and Third
Generations of
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Visit www.mandelljcc.org/mhfa for course schedule

For more information on Mental Health First Aid Training:
www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org

For more information on Cigna:
www.cigna.com





Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 PM | AMC Bloomfield

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

THE SONG OF NAMES

Feature | 2019 | USA | 113 minutes

Hebrew, English

Directed by François Girard

As Europe erupts into World War II, 9 year old Martin comes to love his new brother Dovidl, a highly gifted violin prodigy of the same age and recent Polish-Jewish refugee to London. But hours before Dovidl's debut concert performance at the age of 21, he vanishes without a trace, causing shame and ruin for their family. A lifetime later, a young violinist shows a 56 year old Martin a stylistic flourish that could only have been taught by Dovidl. This triggers Martin's odyssey overseas in search of his lost brother, one that will lead to surprising revelations for both men and for Helen, the woman who stood between them.

“By weaving both original compositions and classic works flawlessly into the film, *The Song of Names* becomes a solemn reflection on war and a lost brotherhood.”

Sara Clements, Flick Feast

COMMUNITY PARTNER:
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and dedication that's making a difference.**



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Wednesday, March 11, 7:00 PM | AMC Bloomfield

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

THE KEEPER

Feature | 2019 | UK | 119 minutes

English

Directed by Marcus Rosenmüller

“A remarkable story,
Beautifully told.”

Daily Star UK

The Keeper tells the incredible true story of Bert Trautmann, a German soldier and prisoner of war who, against a backdrop of British post-war protest and prejudice, secures the position of Goalkeeper at Manchester City, and in doing so becomes a footballing icon. His signing causes outrage to thousands of fans, many of them Jewish. But Bert receives support from an unexpected direction: Rabbi Alexander Altmann, who fled the Nazis. Bert's love for Margaret, an Englishwoman, carries him through and he wins over even his harshest opponents by winning the 1956 FA Cup Final, playing on with a broken neck to secure victory. But fate will soon twist the knife for Bert and Margaret, when their love and loyalty to each other is put to the ultimate test.

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**Community Partner:
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Sponsor: Thursday, March 12
City of Joel, 5:30 PM, Mandell JCC
Holy Silence, 7:30 PM, Mandell JCC



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www.jcfhartford.org

We are grateful to these funds of the Jewish Community
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Thursday, March 12, 5:30 PM | Mandell JCC

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

CITY OF JOEL

Documentary | 2018 | USA | 84 minutes

English

Directed by Jesse Sweet

Small-town politics and ancient tradition collide deep in the Hudson Valley, in *City of Joel*, an absorbing account of a high-profile turf war between an ultra-Orthodox community and its neighbors. Located in rural upstate New York, Kiryas Joel is a modern shtetl in the town of Monroe, home to over 20,000 Yiddish-speaking Satmar sect members, one of the country's fastest growing Hasidic enclaves.

When a plan is created to double the size of the village to keep up with its growth, their secular neighbors fight back, believing that the expansion will disrupt their lives, harm the environment, and tilt the balance of local political power.

With unprecedented access, the documentary presents people on all sides of a conflict as they struggle to find their place in the City of Joel.

“City of Joel is a very fascinating and even-handed approach to the workings of the Kiryas Joel community.”

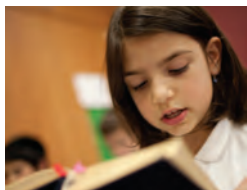
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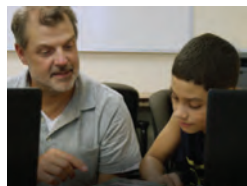
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THURSDAY, MARCH 12

Thursday, March 12, 7:30 PM | Mandell JCC

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

HOLY SILENCE

Feature | 2020 | USA | 72min | English

Directed by Steven Pressman

Decades after the horrors of the Holocaust, a controversial debate continues over the role of the Vatican during that dark period of modern history. At the center of the debate is the pivotal question of what, if anything, the pope might have done to resist the rise of Adolf Hitler and Nazism and intervene in behalf of the Jews of Europe.

Holy Silence is a documentary that cuts straight to the heart of that ongoing debate. In doing so, the film also focuses on a fascinating cast of historical figures, each of whom played a crucial role in the effort to shape the Vatican's response to the Holocaust: a humble Jesuit priest from New England, a leading American industrialist dispatched on a mission by President Franklin Roosevelt, and high-ranking officials within the Vatican determined to carry out their own objectives.

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POST FILM DISCUSSION with Professor Avinoam Patt, Ph.D., UCONN, Steven Pressman, Emmy-nominated writer, producer, and director and Dr. Suzanne Brown-Fleming Director, International Academic Programs - Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

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LATTER DAY JEW

Documentary | 2019 | Israel – United States
85 minutes | English
Directed by Aliza Rosen

How does a gay, former-Mormon, cancer-survivor who converted to Judaism at the age of 34 prepare for his bar mitzvah? Determined to be “the best Jew he can be” before becoming a man in the eyes of Jewish law, comedian H. Alan Scott’s adventure takes him to Israel during Tel Aviv Pride week, where he shops for his first tallit, prays at the Kotel, and takes a lesson in shofar-blowing. A coming-of-age story about a person who literally finds his tribe, *Latter Day Jew* is a tender tale of self-discovery layered with comedy, pathos, and unadulterated joy!

“A spiritual and cultural journey chronicled with depth, insight, and large doses of humor.”

New Jersey Jewish News

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SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Sunday, March 15, 12:00 PM | AMC Bloomfield

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

MOSSAD

Feature | 2019 | Germany | 106 Minutes

Feature | 2019 | Israel | 95 minutes

English and Hebrew with English subtitles

Directed by Alon Gur Arye

A box office smash in its native Israel *Mossad* follows the tradition of *The Naked Gun* series with a riotous laugh-a-minute sendup of the Mossad, Israel's revered national intelligence agency. Tsahi Halevi (*Fauda*, *Bethlehem*) stars as operative Guy Moran, a secret agent who can't do anything right. When an American billionaire is kidnapped in Israel, Moran teams up with the CIA's best agent to try to save the day... with side-splitting and wildly entertaining results.

“The most popular Israeli film of all time.”

The Jerusalem Post

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Sunday, March 15, 12:00 pm
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Sunday, March 15, 12:00 PM | AMC Bloomfield

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door



DETAILS ON PAGE 18

ADVOCATE

Documentary | 2019 | USA | 110 minutes

Hebrew - Arabic, English subtitles

Directed by Rachel Leah Jones and

Philippe Bellaïche

Lea Tsemel defends Palestinians: from feminists to fundamentalists, from nonviolent demonstrators to armed militants. As a Jewish-Israeli lawyer who has represented political prisoners for five decades, Tsemel, in her tireless quest for justice, pushes the praxis of a human rights defender to its limits. As far as most Israelis are concerned, she defends the indefensible. *Advocate* follows Tsemel's caseload in real time while also revisiting her landmark cases and reflecting on the political significance of her work and the personal price one pays for taking on the role of "devil's advocate."

“This documentary portrait of Israeli human rights lawyer Lea Tsemel gets absorbingly up close and personal. Compelling.”

The Hollywood Reporter

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Sunday, March 15, 2:30 PM | AMC Bloomfield

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DETAILS ON PAGE 18

INCITEMENT

Feature | 2019 | Israel | 123 minutes

Hebrew with English subtitles

Directed by Yaron Zilberman

For the first time on screen and based on true events, acclaimed writer-director Yaron Zilberman chronicles the disturbing descent of a promising law student to a delusional ultranationalist obsessed with murdering his country's leader, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Israel's official Academy Award entry for Best International Feature Film and winner of the Israeli Ophir Award for Best Film, this gripping psychological drama depicts the lead-up to the assassination through the worldview of his assassin, Yigal Amir. The assassination is held to be a definitive — and infamous — moment in the struggling peace process with the Palestinians and in Israel's charged history.

“An assassin's actions can never be thoroughly explained, but this ragged, powerful film cogently indicts the dark, repressive voices in any society who can set the stage for violence.”

The Hollywood Reporter

“Impeccably written and acted.”

Hannah Brown, Jerusalem Post

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Sunday, March 15, 2:30 PM | AMC Bloomfield

Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

THOSE WHO REMAINED

Feature | 2019 | Hungary | 83 minutes
Hungarian (with English subtitles)
Directed by Barnabás Tóth

Hungary's official entry for the Academy Award for Best International Film is an achingly tender tale set in Budapest after the end of World War II. Having survived the camps, 42-year-old Aldo lives a solitary life as a doctor in Budapest. 16-year-old Klara lives reluctantly with her great-aunt, holding on to hope that her father and mother will return.

As they grow closer and closer, the joy in both of their lives slowly returns. *Those Who Remained* is a lyrical story of the healing power of love in the midst of conflict, loss and trauma.

“A revelation!... This exquisite, poignantly performed tale taps into a deep well of honestly earned emotion.”

Alissa Simon, Variety

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CLOSING NIGHT

Sunday, March 15, 7:00 PM | Mandell JCC

Tickets: \$25 (includes dessert reception)

MY NAME IS SARA

Feature | 2019 | Poland-USA | 111 min
English and Polish with English subtitles
Directed by Steven Orit

This powerful saga of courage and compassion is based on the astonishing true-life story of Sara Góralnik, a 13-year-old Polish Jew who lost her entire family in the Holocaust, yet struggled to outlast the Nazis and fought to keep alive her Jewish faith. After a grueling escape, Sara steals her Christian best friend's identity and finds refuge in a small Ukrainian village, where she is taken in by a farmer and his young wife and hidden in plain sight, masquerading as a Christian. But Sara soon discovers the dark secret of her employer's marriage, which compromises the greatest secret she must protect at all costs, her true identity.

This English-language drama offers a fascinating insight into Ukrainian identity and society, and pays testament to the bravery of a single woman.

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ANTISEMITISM IN FOUR MUTATIONS

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THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 PM | Mandell JCC
Tickets: \$12 in advance/\$15 at the door

VIRAL: ANTISEMITISM IN FOUR MUTATIONS

Documentary | 2019 | USA | 83 minutes
www.viralthefilm.com

**Q & A following the film with
Producer Diana Robinson**

The film looks at the rise of antisemitism today, through the eyes of some of those most affected by it in the US, France, the UK and Hungary. Examining the far-Right in the US and how they have incited such acts as the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. In England, we find how the far Left often conflates Israel and Jews which devolves into antisemitism. Further East, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban has launched a massive antisemitic media campaign based around George Soros, and in France, the film illuminates the seemingly endless wave of violence against Jews. The increasing violence within each of these four countries when reviewed holistically paints a terrifying portrait of how this kind of global hatred begins and how easily it disseminates.

The Festival Continues...

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DATE	FILM/EVENT	TIME/VENUE	#TICKETS/COST	TOTAL \$
Thursday, March 5	OPENING NIGHT <i>Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles</i>	6:00pm Dinner 7:30pm Film (MJCC)	@\$36= Includes Dinner & Film	
Saturday, March 7	<i>Tel Aviv on Fire</i>	8:00pm (AMCB)	@\$12=	
Sunday, March 8	<i>Crescendo</i>	1:00pm (SPOT)	@\$12=	
	<i>Picture of His Life</i>	1:00pm (SPOT)	@\$12=	
	<i>Aulcie</i>	3:00pm (SPOT)	@\$12=	
	<i>Reports on Sarah and Saleem</i>	3:00pm (SPOT)	@\$12=	
Monday, March 9	<i>King Bibi</i>	5:30pm (MJCC)	@\$12=	
Tuesday, March 10	<i>Ma'abarot</i>	5:30pm (MJCC)	@\$12=	
	<i>Saul and Ruby: To Life!</i>	7:30pm (MJCC)	@\$12=	
Wednesday, March 11	<i>Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles</i>	1:30pm (MJCC) <i>Innovation Center</i>	@\$12= Seniors (70+) Free; Tickets Required Includes Reception	
	<i>Song of Names</i>	7:00pm (AMCB)	@\$12=	
	<i>The Keeper</i>	7:00pm (AMCB)	@\$12=	
Thursday, March 12	<i>City of Joel</i>	5:30pm (MJCC)	@\$12=	
	<i>Holy Silence</i> With post film panel	7:30pm (MJCC)	@\$12=	
Saturday, March 14	<i>Latter Day Jew</i>	8:00pm (MJCC)	@\$12=	
Sunday, March 15	<i>Mossad</i>	12:00pm (AMCB)	@\$12=	
	<i>Advocate</i>	12:00pm (AMCB)	@\$12=	
	<i>Incitement</i>	2:30pm (AMCB)	@\$12=	
	<i>Those Who Remained</i>	2:30pm (AMCB)	@\$12=	
	CLOSING NIGHT <i>My Name is Sara</i>	7:00pm (MJCC)	@\$25= Includes dessert reception	
Thursday, March 19	<i>Viral: Antisemitism in Four Mutations</i>	7:00pm (MJCC)	@\$12=	

Film Schedule Subject to change. Visit www.hjff.org

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A PANEL DISCUSSION

Monday, March 23, 7:00 pm | Mandell JCC

Free and Open to the Community

Join us as a panel of expert guests explore Israeli society through the lens of 6 Israeli films featured in the 2020 Hartford Jewish Film Festival: *Advocate*, *Incitement*, *Ma'abarot*, *King Bibi*, *The Reports on Sarah and Saleem*, and *Tel Aviv on Fire*.

See page 18 for more details.