



**NEPA JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON
OCTOBER 24TH AND 25TH**

For more information contact: Carol Nelson Dembert
570-586-6022

Carol Nelson Dembert
Chair

Laney Ufberg
Vice Chair

The second Northeastern Pennsylvania Jewish Film Festival will be held on Saturday evening, October 24th and all day Sunday, October 25th, 2009 and will screen award-winning films in three of Scranton's architectural jewels, the Mellow Theater on the campus of Lackawanna College, Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, and Albright Memorial Library. Theodore Bikel, the Oscar nominated, Tony and Emmy winning actor, musician, will receive the Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Mellow Theater on Sunday evening prior to the opening film.

Constantine's Sword will be screened at 7:15 PM on Saturday, October 24 at the Mellow Theater. The film is based on the book by former Paulist priest and award-winning novelist, James Carroll. *Constantine's Sword* looks at the history of Catholic and Christian Anti-Semitism. A panel discussion, with the film's director, Oren Jacoby as well as other panelists, will follow. Other panelists include Reverend John Palikowski of the Catholic Theological Union, who appears in the film, and Rabbi Jan Katzew of the Union for Reform Judaism. *Constantine's Sword* is presented in partnership with Mr. Jacoby and with the Office of Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Affairs, Rev. Philip Altavilla, Director.

On Sunday, October 25th, at 10 AM, at the Albright Memorial Library, there will be a brunch and a showing of *In Search of the Bene Israel*, a short film that provides an inside look at a small Jewish community that believes it landed in India following a shipwreck and are descended from the ten lost tribes of Israel. The director, Sadia Shepard, explores the story of her India-born grandmother who eloped with her Muslim grandfather.

Later on Sunday at Noon at the Mellow Theater will be *Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*, the humorous and revealing story of television pioneer Gertrude Berg, directed by Aviva Kempner. Berg combined social commentary, family values, and infectious humor in her radio and TV show about a Jewish family living in New York City.

The touching comic drama, *Noodle*, directed by Ayelet Menahemi, will follow at 12:20 PM. Miri is a twice-widowed El Al flight attendant. Her comfortably stable life is suddenly turned upside down when she undertakes a remarkable journey with an abandoned Chinese boy whose migrant worker mother is summarily deported from Israel.

Following an intermission, *The Little Traitor* will be shown at 2:15 PM. Proffy Liebowitz is a militant yet sensitive eleven year old living in British-occupied Palestine in 1947. He dearly wants the British to leave his homeland until he is befriended by a soldier. When Proffy's friends see him with the enemy, he is reported to the town's officials and is "tried" for being a traitor. *The Little Traitor* stars Alfred Molina and Theodore Bikel and is directed by Lynn Roth

Following an intermission, *Good* will be screened at 4:05 PM. Viggo Mortensen of *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy plays John Halder, a German literature professor with family problems. After he writes a novel exploring his personal circumstances, his work is used by powerful political figures to support government propaganda. His career rises at the same time his seemingly inconsequential decisions jeopardize the people in his life. Directed by Vincente Amorim, *Good* is based on the play by C.P. Taylor and also stars Jason Isaacs, Jodie Whittaker, Mark Strong and Gemma Jones.

During both intermissions at 1:55 and 3:38 PM, *Rocky Dawuni's Jerusalem* will be shown. "Ghana's Bob Marley" Rocky Dawuni burst onto the African reggae scene in 1996. The film depicts Rocky's vision of peace and harmony as he walks the streets of Jerusalem. *Rocky Dawuni's Jerusalem* is presented in partnership with the Annenberg Foundation LLC and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic. It is directed by Charles Annenberg Weingarten.

The last film to be screened is *Victory at Entebbe*, a drama based on the hijacking of Air France Flight 139 in 1976. Forced to land at Entebbe Airport in Uganda by militant German and Palestinian terrorists, the jet had 256 passengers, 106 of whom were Jewish, and its crew. No help could be expected from Ugandan's government, ruled by Idi Amin. The only hope lie in Israeli commandos. Directed by Marvin J. Chomsky, the film boasts a cast that includes Theodore Bikel, Burt Lancaster, Anthony Hopkins, Helen Hayes, Linda Blair, Richard Dreyfuss, Elizabeth Taylor, and Kirk Douglas. Showtime is 8:00 PM at the Mellow Theater.

Besides Sunday brunch accompanying the screening of *In Search of the Bene Israel*, other special events include an opening night dessert reception (Glatt Kosher) honoring Oren Jacoby, director of Constantine's Sword, Rev. John Palikowski, Rabbi Jan Katzew, and Rev. Philip Altavilla. The party, catered by Epicurean Delight, will be held at 9:45 PM on Saturday in the Ballroom of the Scranton Cultural Center. The closing night gala dinner in honor of Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Theodore Bikel will begin at 6:00 PM. The Glatt Kosher dinner will be catered by Prestige Caterers of New York and reservations are required.

There are different levels of membership for the Festival. In Inner Circle Membership includes two All-Access Passes to every film and special event plus two additional tickets for *Constantine's Sword* and the opening night reception, preferred parking, seating in the reserved section in the Mellow Theater, invitation to the private hospitality suite and a name badge. The cost is \$500 for two persons.

The VIP All-Access Pass gives the holder entry to every film and special event, preferred parking, seating in the reserved section of the Mellow Theater, an invitation to the private hospitality suite and a name badge. The cost is \$150 per person.

Single tickets may be purchased as follows:

Opening Night Film: <i>Constantine's Sword</i> and Panel Discussion	\$8
Opening Night Dessert Reception	\$25
Sunday Brunch & <i>In Search of the Bene Israel</i>	\$25
Sunday Matinee (Includes all five films)	\$11
Closing Night International Dinner	\$55
Closing Night Film: <i>Victory at Entebbe</i>	\$8
Student Film Tickets (Mellow Theater)	\$5

For additional information and tickets, go to www.NEPAJFF.org or NEPAJFF@epix.net or call 570.961.2300 (ext. 4) or visit the NEPA Jewish Federation office in Scranton.

Presenting sponsor is the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Festival sponsors include:

- PNC Wealth Management Group
- Lackawanna County Office of Arts and Culture
- Weinberg Institute of Judaic Studies of the University of Scranton
- Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
- Times-Shamrock Communications
- NEPA Association of Colleges & Universities
- Community Medical Center
- Fidelity Deposit & Discount Bank
- Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts
- City of Scranton, Mayor Chris & Donna Doherty
- Keystone College
- Wells Fargo Advisors LLC
- Oppenheim Family Foundation
- Skier Family Foundation
- Flack Family Foundation
- Elaine Shepard, Classic Properties

Individual sponsors include:

- Carol Nelson Dembert & Don Dembert
- Patricia Taylor & Donald Bernstein
- Bonnie & Ken Green
- Shirley & Myer Alperin
- Mary & Phil Marrara
- Joanne Aronsohn Monahan
- Goldye Weinberger
- Sharon & Saul Levy
- Laney & Bob Ufberg
- Marsha & Rick Silberman
- Goldye Weinberger

Community partners for the Festival include:

- Office of Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Affairs of the Diocese of Scranton
- Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple
- Lackawanna College
- Albright Memorial Library
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic
- Radisson at Lackawanna Station Hotel.

###