

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Programs (Lifelong Learning) Committee – *Written by Linda S Trapasso*

The NH Jewish Film Festival Is Here!

The 2020 NH Jewish Film Festival (NHJFF) is here. Festival flyers arrived in mid-February with the schedule. And what a line up between the films and list of sponsors, including our own TBA, plus a free PJ Library movie!



If you missed the flyer, check out www.nhjewishfilmfestival.org. You can review movie trailers there, too. For movie details, go to www.imdb.com and do a search. For tickets, see www.brownpapertickets.com and search on “NH Jewish Film Festival”.

Every year the Film Festival Committee (which includes TBA members) views and selects the films. Most of the films come to NH from other film festivals, and a good number of films have won awards. The first and last films of the festival include special events – an opening reception following the first film, and a wrap party following the last film. In addition, there is Sociable Saturday Night with coffee and dessert following the film.



So what is special about Jewish films and Jewish film festivals? The films connect us, the Jewish Diaspora, with our culture and our roots. (Plus the movies are usually good.) And these films affect people personally in many ways. See [Why Jewish Films Are Important](#).

“The notion of what defines a ‘Jewish’ film has certainly changed within the last twenty years,” explains Jason Solomons, a British film critic, and Jewish himself. There is a strong tradition of Jewish filmmaking in Hollywood and now in Israel. Emma Jones explores this in the article [Is there such a thing as Jewish film?](#)

According to [MyJewishLearning.com](#), movies have been influenced by Jewish characters, themes, and plots, as well as by Jewish directors, actors, and especially executives and producers. And Jews continue to play a role today in Hollywood movie studios.



One of the first Jewish Film Festivals was in San Francisco in 1980. Its goal was “to use cinema

to spark a new and open discussion of politics and culture inside the Jewish community and to challenge Hollywood stereotypes of Jews in the public at large.” Today the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (SFJFF) continues under the umbrella of the Jewish Film Institute (www.jfi.org), which sponsors the festival and provides opportunities for filmmakers. Check out the “watch online” feature to view the JFI library of Jewish films.

If you go to Atlanta, Georgia, you will find one of the largest Jewish film festivals – over 40,000 people attend. What makes it special? Read what [executive director Kenny Blank](#) says about that.

If you have not gone to a film during the NHJFF, make a point to go. Step outside of your box and discover what you can find there. See you at the movies!

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