



MUSIC



OCTOBER 7



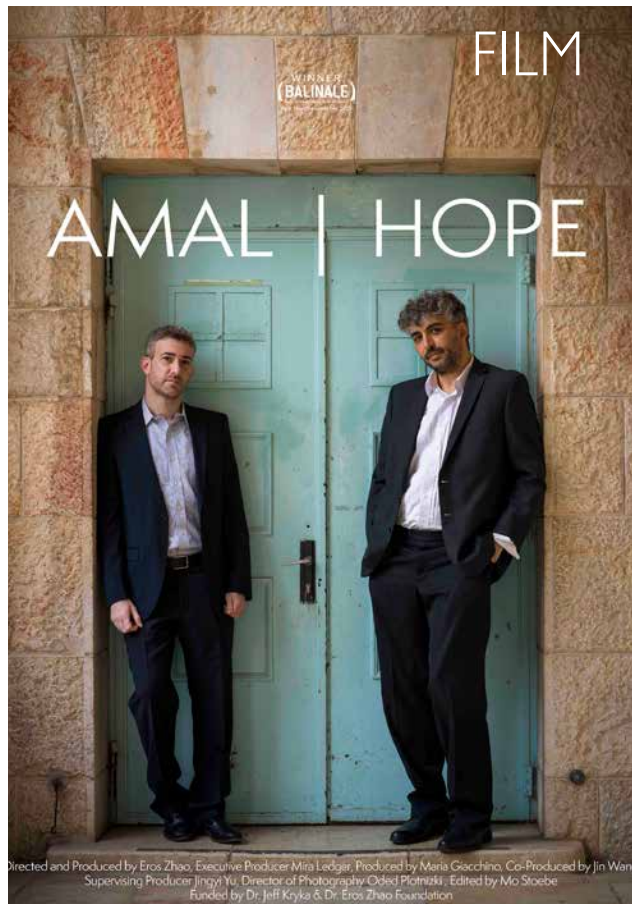
VISUAL ARTS



LITERATURE



DANCE



FILM

AMAL | HOPE

Directed and Produced by Eros Zhao, Executive Producer Mira Ledgar, Produced by Maria Giacchino, Co-Produced by Jin Wan
Supervising Producer Jingyi Yu, Director of Photography Oded Plotnikski, Edited by Mo Stoebe
Funded by Dr. Jeff Kryka & Dr. Eros Zhao Foundation

Roe Green, Honorary Producer

FALL & WINTER
2025-26
SEASON



CLEVELAND-ISRAEL
ARTS CONNECTION

a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland



visual arts 4



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Fall & Winter 2025-26 Season

2025

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The artistic viewpoints reflected in these programs do not necessarily represent the positions or opinions of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

Dear Friends:

The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection (CIAC) continues to create meaningful opportunities for Israeli arts to be presented in Cleveland. This past year, we expanded our reach through newly created art discipline subcommittees. We are grateful to our subcommittee chairs and the members of their committees for their insight and expertise.

We want to express our deep gratitude to: **Matthew Garson** (Visual Arts); **Hedy Milgrom** (Theatre); **Mike Milgrom** (Literature); **Linda Sandhaus** (Music); **Charna Sherman** (Dance); and **Cathy Stamler** (Film.)

Together, with their committees, these leaders are strengthening existing and creating new opportunities for expressive and meaningful artistic collaborations across the Cleveland arts community.

We are looking forward to the next exhibition at the Roe Green Gallery, "**Memory: Moshe Gershuni.**" This show is co-curated by **Matthew Garson** and **Katya Oicherman, Ph.D.**, with Gershuni's works being shown simultaneously in the Roe Green Gallery and at Congregation Mishkan Or (pages 4-7.)

This fall the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival and the Mandel JCC's Jewish Film Festival will highlight Israeli Art in Cinema. CIAC is also proud to embark on a new partnership with filmmaker **Yonatan Nir's** DocuNation starting in winter 2026 as a virtual opportunity for Clevelanders to view exceptional Israeli documentaries (page 15.)

This past summer, CIAC proudly sponsored pianist **Natalie Tenenbaum** at the 2025 Piano Days. We are honored that Natalie will be joining us virtually for **CIAC Presents: Breaking the Boundaries of Israeli Music** on October 30, 2025 (page 9.)

Our continued appreciation to the CIAC Patron Society, Sponsors, and Advisory Committee who are instrumental in making all CIAC programming and grants possible. And we are very grateful to all of you who have joined us at these fantastic arts and cultural opportunities.

Warm regards,

 
Roe Green Erica Hartman-Horvitz



Erica Hartman-Horvitz and Roe Green

MEMORY: MOSHE GERSHUNI

Matthew Garson and Katya Oicherman, Ph.D., Curators

Presented by the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection and Congregation Mishkan Or Museum

September 21, 2025 – February 22, 2026

Roe Green Gallery
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building
25701 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Hartzmark Gallery
Congregation Mishkan Or
Jack & Lilyan Mandel Building
26000 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood



Moshe Gershuni (1936-2017), among the most significant Israeli artists, was born in Tel Aviv to Polish-Jewish parents. His passionate and deeply personal work reflects the challenges of Israeli life, often addressing grief and memory. Gershuni blends many cultural and historical references, including Jewish and Christian religious ideas and the Holocaust.

View "Kaddish", a magnificent 1997 portfolio illustrating the homonymous poem written by the American Jewish beatnik poet **Allen Ginsberg** (1926-1997) on the death of his mother. The portfolio includes 24 images screen-printed on goldleaf next to the original text with Hebrew translation by the eminent Israeli poet **Natan Zach**. Six beautiful large-scale prints created in 2000s with similar visual themes are also on view. One half of the 24 page "Kaddish" will be displayed at each location.

Photo: Dan Porges - Getty Images

EXHIBITION OPENING

Sunday, September 21, 2025 @ 1 – 3 pm
Roe Green Gallery, Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Sunday, September 28, 2025 @ 1 – 3 pm
Hartzmark Gallery, Congregation Mishkan Or

GALLERY OPEN HOUSES

The Galleries are open on the following dates or by appointment.

Jewish Federation

Sun, Oct 19 @ 1 - 3 pm
Sun, Nov 9 @ 1 - 3 pm
Sun, Dec 21 @ 1 - 3 pm
Sun, Jan 18 @ 1 - 3 pm
Sun, Feb 15 @ 1 - 3 pm

Congregation Mishkan Or

Sun, Oct 26 @ 1 - 3 pm
Tue, Nov 18 @ 5 - 7 pm
Tue, Dec 2 @ 5 - 7 pm
Sun, Jan 25 @ 1 - 3 pm
Sun, Feb 22 @ 1 - 3 pm

- To schedule group tours or individual visits at the Federation's Roe Green Gallery, email israelarts@jewishcleveland.org or call 216-593-2900.
- To schedule group tours or individual visits at Congregation Mishkan Or, email koicherman@mishkanor.org or call 216-455-1697.



Presented by the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



Presented by Mishkan Or Museum.



Sponsored with support from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

SPECIAL EVENTS

POETRY READING AT DÍA DE MUERTOS

Presented by Cleveland Public Theatre/Teatro Público de Cleveland & Día de Muertos Ohio
Artistic Director: Héctor Castellanos Lara

Saturday, November 1, 2025

Festival @ 11 am – 10 pm

Poetry Reading @ 6 pm

Cleveland Public Theatre Campus
6415 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland



Día de Muertos or Day the Dead, is a cultural tradition in Mexico and many Latin American countries to honor deceased loved ones. Recitation of the Kaddish is the Jewish tradition of remembering our deceased.

Recognizing both Jewish and Latino traditions, there will be a reading of Allen Ginsberg's "Kaddish" during this vibrant cultural celebration.

- For more information, visit diademuertosoio.com/ or www.cptonline.org/performances/seasons/2025-2026/.

THE KEY IS IN THE SUNLIGHT AT THE WINDOW

with Rabbi Elle Muhlbaum

Presented by Congregation Mishkan Or

Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 3:30 – 5:30 pm

3:30 pm Introductory Tour

4:00 pm Program

Congregation Mishkan Or
Jack & Lilyan Mandel Building
26000 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood

Rabbi Elle Muhlbaum will present a reflective close reading and conversation about Allen Ginsberg's poem "Kaddish."

A Cincinnati native, Rabbi Muhlbaum graduated from The Ohio State University, and studied at the Jerusalem, Cincinnati, and New York campuses of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion.

- For information and to register visit the www.mishkanor.org, email koicherman@mishkanor.org, or call 216-455-1697.



EXPLORING GRIEF IN POETRY

Inspired by Moshe Gershuni, Natan Zach,

and Allen Ginsberg

Presented by Literary Cleveland and Congregation Mishkan Or

Sunday, November 9, 2025 @ 3 – 5 pm

Congregation Mishkan Or
Jack & Lilyan Mandel Building
26000 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood

As a rendering of the traditional mourner's prayer that is part art and part literature, "Kaddish" provides rich and meaningful inspiration for ekphrasis: the art of writing poetry about a piece of visual art. Come to see this unique exhibition and explore themes of grief, release, and resilience in a writing workshop where you try your own hand at ekphrastic poems.

- For reservations email, library@mishkanor.org or visit www.litcleveland.org/events.



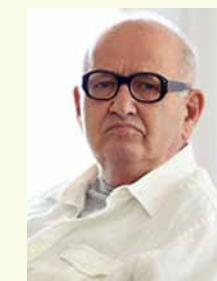
SCANDALS, SECRETS, AND STRUGGLES OF MOSHE GERSHUNI

Katya Oicherman, Ph.D.

Presented by Congregation Mishkan Or

Sunday, January 11, 2026 @ 1 pm

Congregation Mishkan Or
Jack & Lilyan Mandel Building
26000 Shaker Boulevard, Beachwood



Moshe Gershuni was a truly "stiff-necked" individual and artist. From early 1970s he expressed ideas that went against the grain of the Israeli political and cultural establishment. When in 1980s he broke through on the international art scene, his life became especially turbulent and open to public judgement, a development that culminated in his nomination for and disqualification from the Israeli Prize for painting in 2003.

- For information and to register visit the www.mishkanor.org, email koicherman@mishkanor.org, or call 216-455-1697.

SPECIAL EVENTS

CREATING THE EXHIBITION

Matthew Garson, Curator

Presented by the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection

Sunday, January 18, 2026 @ 1:30 pm

Roe Green Gallery
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building
25701 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Have you ever wondered how a visual art exhibition is created? Join curator Matt Garson as he tells of how his visit to a Jerusalem art gallery in spring 2023 evolved into the first Cleveland Israel Arts Connection exhibition to be shared between two Cleveland institutions.

- For reservations, visit jewishcleveland.org or call 216-593-2900.

MOSHE GERSHUNI: HERETICAL VISIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI ART

Katya Oicherman, Ph.D.

Presented by Siegal Lifelong Learning at CWRU

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 @ 10:30 am

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood



Explore the poignant and controversial art of Moshe Gershuni, among the most important personalities of the contemporary Israeli art scene through its affinities with the ideas of the Jewish heretical movements of Sabbateanism and Frankism.

- To register, visit www.case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, or email lifelonglearning@case.edu.

DOCUMENTARIES

"THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ALLEN GINSBERG"

A film by Jerry Aronson

Presented by Maltz Museum

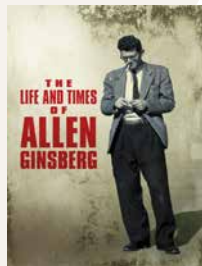
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 @ 7 pm

Maltz Museum
2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood

This 1993 film chronicles the poet Allen Ginsberg's life up to that point, along with his views on death; Ginsberg was in his mid-60s when the movie was first released at the Sundance Film Festival after which it enjoyed an international festival run and USA theatrical run.

When Aronson showed him the film the poet is reported to have nodded his head thoughtfully and said, "So, that's Allen Ginsberg."

After Ginsberg's death in 1997 Aronson updated the ending of the film and added a shot of Ginsberg's headstone.



- For information, visit maltzmuseum.org or call 216-593-0595.



"M.G. REHEARSALS FOR DEPARTURE"

A film by Ziva Postek

Presented by Maltz Museum

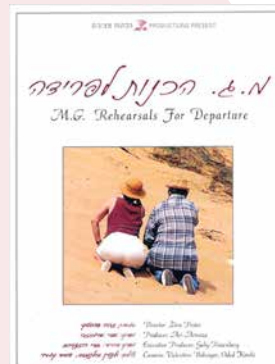
Wednesday, January 28, 2026 @ 7 pm

Maltz Museum
2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood

Moshe Gershuni, one of Israel's most important and internationally acclaimed artists, reveals his most intimate life motives.

Gershuni embraces the Jewish-Israeli experience in its complexity: Yiddish & Hebrew, Holocaust & Zionism, a romantic longing for Western culture and a "native" Israeli world.

In the film all these motives blend into an immense experience of authentic emotional tensions and conflicts.



SPECIAL EVENTS



POETRY READING: GINSBERG KADDISH

Presented by Waterloo Arts

Featuring Ray McNiece and Michael Loderstedt

Thursday, February 12, 2026 @ 7 pm

Waterloo Arts Café
15605 Waterloo Road, Cleveland



The poem "Kaddish" also known as "Kaddish for Naomi Ginsberg" is a masterpiece Beat poem written by Allen Ginsberg. Ginsberg wrote the poem in 1958-9 upon the death of his mother Naomi, whose difficult mental health struggles were witnessed by him since childhood.

Ray McNiece, Poet Laureate of Cleveland Heights, and Michael Loderstedt, a spoken word poet and Professor Emeritus of Kent State University, will combine forces to perform the "Kaddish."

- For reservations, visit waterlooarts.org/, email info@waterlooarts.org or call 216-692-9500.



Cleveland native **Matthew Garson** is a fine art advisor, curator, and interior design consultant with over 30 years of experience. In the 90's, he was a curator for Progressive Insurance Corporate Art Collection and in 2000, he established M9%, a consulting firm specializing in collecting emerging contemporary artists. Matthew is currently Chair of the Visual Arts Sub-committee and the Volunteer Director of the Roe Green Gallery.



Katya Oicherman, Ph.D., is a curator, researcher and artist focusing on Jewish material culture, as well as historical and contemporary textiles. She holds a practice-based Ph.D. from Goldsmiths, University of London (UK) with a thesis on 19th century German Jewish ritual textiles. Oicherman is the Director of Congregation Mishkan Or Museum in Beachwood, OH. Previously she was a resident artist-curator at the Minnesota Museum of American Art and the chair of the Textile Design Department at Shenkar College of Engineering, Design and Art in Israel.



MULTI-CULTURAL MOURNING PRACTICES

Presented by Siegal Lifelong Learning at CWRU

Tuesday February 17, 2026 @ 11 am – 12:30 pm

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Every culture has its own traditions when it comes to mourning the passing of a loved one. Allen Ginsberg responded by writing "Kaddish."

We assembled a multi-cultural panel to talk about their unique mourning rituals. We invite you to join Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams, Senior Pastor, Old Stone Church, Rabbi Joshua Caruso, Congregation Mishkan Or, and Zeki Saritoprak, Ph.D., Professor of Islamic Studies, Chair, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, John Carroll University for a panel conversation of multi-cultural mourning practices.

- To register, visit www.case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, or email lifelonglearning@case.edu.



CURATORS



ADORNING RITUAL: JEWISH CEREMONIAL ART

From the Jewish Museum, New York
Presented by the Cleveland Museum of Art

Now on Display

Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland



To enhance its permanent collection and to more fully represent the stories and objects important to our communities, the Cleveland Museum of Art is displaying six works on loan from the Jewish Museum, New York. Most of the works are ritual objects relating to Judaism or the lives of

Jewish people, from silver Torah finials to an inlaid marble panel commemorating a marriage. Additionally, two more examples of Jewish ceremonial art from local collections are on display.

- For information, visit www.clevelandart.org.

Above, left to right: **Passover Handwashing Vessel and Laver**, 1849 – 50 (date of inscription). Turkey, Istanbul. Copper gilt; 36.8 x 5 cm. **Marriage Wall Panel or Tabletop**, 1700s - early 1800s. Italy. Marble and other stones; 5.7 x 146.7 x 97.8 cm. **Torah Finials**, 1797 – 99. Heinrich Wilhelm Kompff (German, 1751 – 1825). Silver; 27.9 x 9.5 cm.

Opening March 2026

CLEVELAND COLLECTS ISRAEL

Curated by Jane Glaubinger, Ph.D.
Presented by the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection

Roe Green Gallery
Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Many Clevelanders are discerning collectors of Israeli fine art. "Cleveland Collects Israel" recognizes these individuals and offers a unique opportunity to view works not typically on display to the public. Curated by **Jane Glaubinger**, retired Curator of Prints at the Cleveland Museum of Art, this exhibition will feature visual art works of various mediums: paintings, prints, photographs, and mixed media.



Hila Lulu Lin
Absolute Naker 5, 2013



Zadok Ben David
Between Heaven and Earth #7, 2006

CIAC* Presents

*Cleveland Israel Arts Connection

BREAKING THE BOUNDARIES OF ISRAELI MUSIC

with Natalie Tenenbaum, pianist

Thursday, October 30, 2025
@ 9:30 – 11:00 am

Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building
25701 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Join **Natalie Tenenbaum**, pianist, in conversation with **Teddy Eisenberg**, CIAC Advisory Committee Member, for an enlightening conversation about current and future trends in Israeli music.



Natalie Tenenbaum is a composer, pianist, music producer/director and singer-songwriter, recognized equally on the stages of Carnegie Hall, SXSW, and Broadway for "sparkling... consistently invigorating" (The New York Times) performances. A graduate of The Juilliard School, Tenenbaum breaks the boundaries between classical composition, popular storytelling, and improvisational jazz to create acoustic and electro-acoustic concert music for a wide scope of ensembles, soloists, organizations, and artistic disciplines.



Photo: Lindsey Poyar

Teddy Eisenberg is a multidisciplinary music professional working at the intersection of sound, strategy, and storytelling. As a DJ, curator, radio host, artist manager, and creative consultant, Teddy helps artists and audiences connect more deeply through music.

CIAC Presents is an initiative that will support Israeli artists during this time of limited opportunities. It will allow artists to discuss and share their work, strengthening the connection between Israeli artists and the Cleveland community during times of crisis.

- Free and open to the public.
- A light meal will be served.
- For more information email israelarts@jewishcleveland.org.

FROM CONCEPT TO CREATION
The Story Behind Gershuni's Work

with Monique Har-El, Owner and Director,
Gallery Har-El Printers & Publishers

Sunday, February 15, 2026 @ 11:30 am – 1 pm
The final open house for "MEMORY" follows from 1 – 3 pm.
Zygote Press will be on hand to help you create your own special edition screenprint.



Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building
25701 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Join **Monique Har-El** and co-curators **Matthew Garson** and **Katya Oicherman, Ph.D.** for the story of how Gershuni's Artist Book of Allen Ginsberg's "Kaddish" was conceived and created.

Monique and Jacob Har-El, printmakers, Moshe Gershuni, artist, and Natan Zach, translator, were discussing a way to celebrate the 70th birthday of beat poet Allan Ginsberg. Their idea was to create an art book based on Ginsberg's poem, Kaddish, in honor of his late mother Naomi. Sadly, Ginsberg passed away before he could receive the book.



Monique Har-El is the Owner and Director, Gallery Har-El Printers & Publishers, a fine art contemporary gallery and print publisher since 1974. Based in Jaffa/Tel Aviv the gallery works with artists from both Israel and worldwide. As publishers, Har-El invites artists to create artist books, editions, multiples, sculpture, etc. in their print workshop in Jaffa and thereafter hold an exhibition in their gallery space.

10-7-23 TWO YEAR COMMEMORATION

COMMUNITY-WIDE COMMEMORATION

Presented by Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Sunday, October 5, 2025 @ 5 – 7 pm
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
25701 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

We will be coming together as a community to mark two years since the horrific attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. We will share moments of reflection, personal testimonies, and honor all the lives that were tragically taken from us too soon.

- For more information visit www.jewishcleveland.org

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

A Journey of Resilience

with Rachel Goldberg-Polin and Jon Polin

Presented by Jewish Federation of Cleveland's Campaign for Jewish Needs

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

Since October 7, 2023, **Rachel Goldberg-Polin** and **Jon Polin** have tirelessly advocated for the release of their son, **Hersh Goldberg-Polin z"l**, and all the hostages. Hersh, a 23-year-old American-Israeli, was wounded and abducted by Hamas during the Nova music festival massacre. He was held hostage in Gaza for nearly 11 months, until his body was recovered from a tunnel in August 2024.

Mark your calendars for an inspiring conversation with Rachel and Jon, whose powerful voices represent the heart of our work – from standing in solidarity with our global Jewish community to advocating for those impacted by terrorism.

- For more information, email rbrenner@jewishcleveland.org or call 216-593-2900.

ליל כלבים אנשים OF DOGS AND MEN

OF DOGS AND MEN

A film by Dani Rosenberg
Presented by Mandel JCC Cleveland Jewish FilmFest

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 @ 4 pm
Cedar Lee Theatre
2163 Lee Road, Cleveland Heights

As dawn breaks, 16-year-old Dar returns to her kibbutz in search of her missing dog, lost in the attacks she survived just days before. She confronts the aftermath of the massacre in her community, and the horrors etched in the faces of the people around her, while witnessing the stark reality of the tragedy unfolding across the fence in Gaza. Between those who seek revenge and those whose faith in mankind remains unwavering, Dar tries to find her own voice.

- For tickets to "Of Dogs and Men," visit www.mandeljcc.org/filmfest

TRANSLATION AND TRAUMA: POETRY AFTER OCTOBER 7

Barbara E. Mann, Ph.D., Stephen H. Hoffman Professor of Modern Hebrew Language and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, Case Western Reserve University
Presented by Siegal Lifelong Learning at CWRU

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 @ 10 am – 12 pm
Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

COMMEMORATING OCTOBER 7 THROUGH SHORT FILMS

Presented by Mandel JCC Cleveland Jewish FilmFest

Sunday, October 5, 2025 @ 11 am
Mandel JCC
26001 South Woodland Rd, Beachwood

A selection of short films in response to the tragic events of October 7, 2023.

- For tickets to "Commemoration through Short Films," visit clevelandjewishfilmfestbonus.eventive.org/schedule

In moments of crisis, poetry can offer a powerful lens through which to process grief, resilience, and meaning. Explore contemporary poems written in the aftermath of October 7, engaging them not only as personal and communal expressions, but as part of a longer tradition of Jewish poetic responses to catastrophe.

- To register, visit www.case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, or email lifelonglearning@case.edu

MANDEL JCC CLEVELAND JEWISH FILMFEST




September 4 – 14, 2025
Presented by the Mandel Jewish Community Center

The 19th annual Cleveland Jewish Film Festival will showcase a broad selection of feature, documentary, and short films with Jewish and Israeli themes.

- For complete schedule and tickets visit www.mandeljcc.org/filmfest.
- For more information call 216-593-6278 or email filmfest@mandeljcc.org.

 Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.

 The Mandel JCC is a proud beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

ADA: My Mother the Architect

A documentary by Yael Melamede

Ada Karmi Melamede is one of the most accomplished architects in the world, but very little is known about her outside her home country of Israel. ADA – MY MOTHER THE ARCHITECT is a deeply moving portrait of an extraordinary woman directed by her daughter, filmmaker, and former architect, **Yael Melamede**.

Yael Melamede, filmmaker, will be present at the screening to offer insight into the film and her mother's career.

HORA

A documentary by Avi Weissblei

One hundred years after the creation of the local Hora dance, we go back to the great dream that began then and continues to this day. It is a legend telling the story of the formation of the folk-dance movement through the voices of those who were once stars of this world. But today, in the struggle for reality and the future, will folk dancing remain, or will it become merely a relic of the past?

Stay after the film for Israeli folk dancing led by Stuart Meyer, Director, Dance Israeli!

SABBATH QUEEN

A documentary by Sandi DuBowski

"Sabbath Queen," filmed over 21 years, follows **Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie's** epic journey as the dynastic heir of 38 generations of Orthodox rabbis. Torn between rejecting and embracing his destiny, he becomes a drag-queen rebel, a queer bio-dad, and the founder of Lab/Shul—an everybody-friendly, God-optional, artist-driven, pop-up experimental congregation.

Official Selection: Tribeca Film Festival, 2024

OTHER FILMS OF ISRAELI INTEREST

Eid

A film by Yousef Abo Madegem

Eid, a young man from Rahat with dreams of becoming a playwright, secretly writes a play based on the sexual assault he experienced as a child. Starring Shadi Mari who won an Israeli Academy Award for his role, this is the first feature film directed by a Bedouin filmmaker.

Marathon Mom

A film by Rebecca Shore and Oren Rosenfeld

Beatie Deutsch, an Orthodox mother of five, is racing to fulfill her dream to become an Olympic athlete.

Matchmaking 2

A film by Erez Tadmor

Baruch, a mature Yeshiva student who missed every opportunity to marry, is left to live in a small room in the Yeshiva where he studies and serves as the faithful assistant to matchmaker Malki. **Sequel to the 2022 Jaffe Audience Award Film, Matchmaking**

The Other

A documentary by Joy Sela

Filmed from 2017 to 2024, this documentary follows Israelis and Palestinians who share voices of peace activists on both sides. Note: some images may be disturbing.

Soda

A film by Erez Tadmor

When a beautiful seamstress moves to a coastal kibbutz community of Holocaust survivors in 1956 Israel, rumors about her past as a Nazi collaborator shake up the neighborhood. Inspired by filmmaker Erez Tadmor's grandfather's life.

Pink Lady

A film by Nir Bergman

Bati's happy life with her husband and three children in a close-knit ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem begins to crumble when she learns that her husband, Lazer, is being blackmailed over intimate photos that link him romantically with a male study partner.

Winner— Jury Prize, Best Narrative Film, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

Of Dogs and Men – See page 10.

The Ring

A film by Adir Miller, Doron & Yoav Paz

Arnon has a strong bond with his Holocaust survivor mother. He drives her to speak to high school students about how a gold ring miraculously saved her and her baby, Arnon. Based on the main actor Adir Miller's Holocaust survival story.

The Stronghold

A film by Lior Chefetz

Set during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the film follows a group of Israeli soldiers who come under siege by the Egyptian army. **Warning: War violence, blood and gore**

Bonus Event

SUSTAINABLE NATION

A documentary by Micah Smith

Sunday, September 28, 2025 @ 2 – 3 pm

"Sustainable Nation" tells the stories of three Israelis working around the world to help solve environmental crises related to water accessibility. The film takes place in Uganda, India, California, and Israel and was filmed over the course of two years.

- For tickets to "Sustainable Nation," visit clevelandjewishfilmfestbonus.eventive.org/schedule



CHAGRIN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

October 7 – 12, 2025
Various Venues, Chagrin Falls



The 16th annual Documentary FilmFest will bring compelling films for six exciting days. Events include panel discussions and the opportunity to experience stories from around the world.
Select films will also be available on CDFF on Demand streaming platform.
• For information, schedule, tickets, and passes visit www.chagrinfilmfest.org.



Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



AMAL | HOPE

A documentary by Eros Zhou

Sunday, October 12, 2025 @ 5:30 pm
Federated Church
76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls

"Amal | Hope" tells the story of the incredible partnership between the virtuoso pianists of Duo Amal, **Yaron Kohlberg** and **Bishara Haroni**, who each come from Israeli and Palestinian backgrounds. Through their music, they embody the profound power of art to transcend boundaries and bring people together.

Yaron Kohlberg will give a short performance and participate in a talk back following the screening with filmmaker Eros Zhou.



HORA

Encore Presentation
A documentary by Avi Weissblei

Sunday, October 12, 2025 @ 1 pm
Chagrin Valley Little Theatre
40 River Street, Chagrin Falls

See page 12 for full description.

Stay after the film for Israeli folk dancing.



Coming this Winter DOCUNATION

February – April 2026

The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection is partnering with DocuNation to present a series of uplifting documentaries to the CIAC community.

DocuNation: Embracing the Israeli Spirit

This series gathers films that reflect the heartbeat of Israel - tender, courageous, and full of hope. They share stories of resilience and creativity, of kindness and connection, and of the quiet heroism found in everyday life.

These are stories that remind us that light can break through in the most unexpected places, that compassion and community are sources of strength, and that joy can emerge when we open our hearts to one another. Through these films, we invite you to embrace the Israeli spirit - to witness, to connect, and to leave each screening a little more inspired about what is possible.

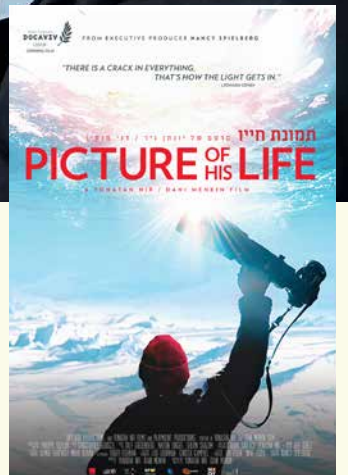
Each month, from February – April 2026, registrants will have access to the featured documentary. A live Zoom conversation with the filmmaker and DocuNation's **Yonatan Nir** will follow each week of screening.

All films will have English subtitles, and the filmmaker conversation will be conducted in English.

• Visit www.docunation.org/CIAC or email israelarts@jewishcleveland.org for details.



Sponsored by the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



NI MÁS / NI MENOS

Presented by Abrepaso Flamenco

November 20 – 21, 2025

What happens when invisible fault lines shift beneath our feet? *Ni más / ni menos* is a bold new interdisciplinary performance by Abrepaso Flamenco that explores the struggle for balance in an increasingly fractured world.

This new work features original music by internationally acclaimed composer and multi-instrumentalist **Adam Ben Ezra**. Born and raised in Tel Aviv, Ben Ezra is well known for his innovative double bass playing. A self-taught musician, he has learned to play a variety of instruments including violin, guitar, piano, clarinet, oud, and flute.

- For tickets, visit <https://www.abrepaso.org/calendar/performances>



Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.

VERONA QUARTET with Yaron Kohlberg

Presented by Cleveland Chamber Music Society

April 28, 2026 @ 7:30 pm

Gartner Auditorium, Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland

Described as "the pianist with golden hands" by international media, Jerusalem-born and Israeli native **Yaron Kohlberg** is one of today's top Israeli pianists. Kohlberg will join the Verona Quartet for a performance of *Dvořák: Quintet for Piano and Strings in A major, Op. 81*.

The Verona Quartet has firmly established itself amongst the most distinguished ensembles on the chamber music scene today. The group's singular sense of purpose earned them a reputation for their "bold interpretive strength, robust characterization and commanding resonance" (Calgary Herald). A string quartet for the 21st century, the Verona Quartet champions the rich breadth of the string quartet repertoire from the time-honored canon through contemporary classics.

- For tickets, visit <https://clevelandchambermusic.org/>
- Use code "JFED" for ticket discount.



FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS

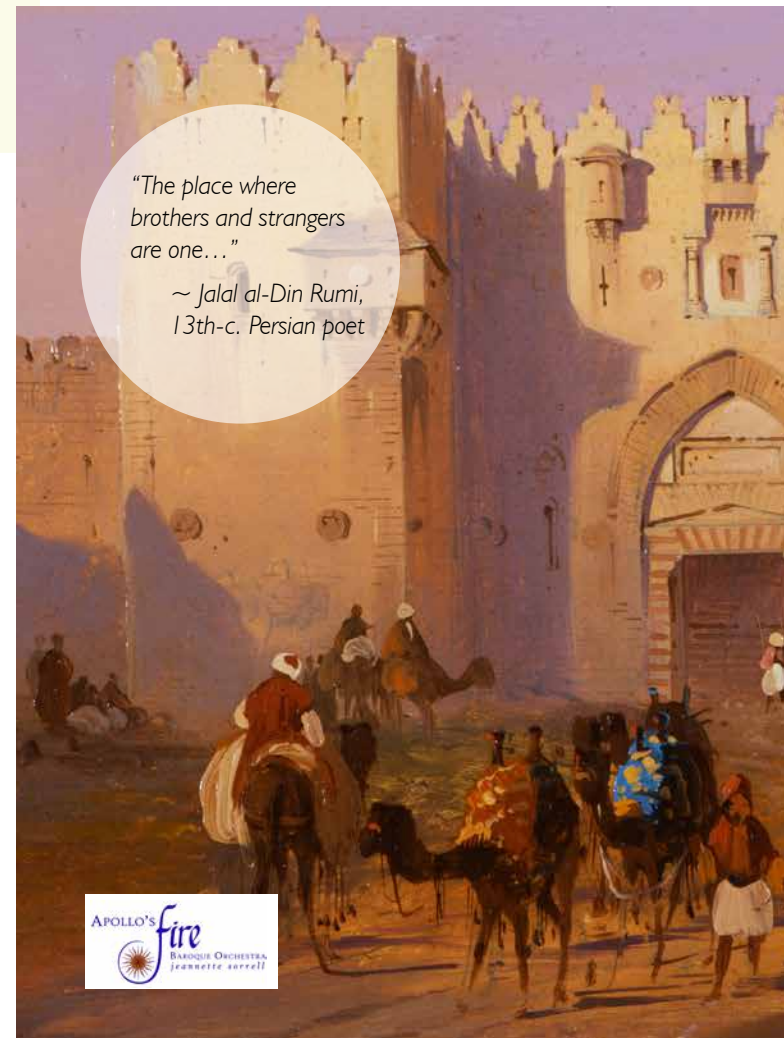
Presented by Cleveland Chamber Choir

February 6 – 8, 2026

Various Venues

The Cleveland Chamber Choir presents *Love in Bloom*, an enchanting evening of music inspired by romance and nature. Featured is Eric Whitacre's "Five Hebrew Love Songs" with lyrics by Jerusalem native **Hila Plittmann**. Prior to their engagement and subsequent marriage, Plittmann presented Whitacre with exquisite and delicate Hebrew poems which he then set to music. The result was very meaningful and personal "Five Hebrew Love Songs," written about innocent, beautiful, and simple love.

- For tickets, visit clevelandchamberchoir.org/



"The place where
brothers and strangers
are one..."

~ Jalal al-Din Rumi,
13th-c. Persian poet



O JERUSALEM! CROSSROADS OF THREE FAITHS

Presented by Apollo's Fire

April 9 – 11, 2026

Various Venues, including Congregation Mishkan Or, Beachwood

Ringling with urgency in our time, this acclaimed program created by Jeannette Sorrell returns in a fresh version. Honoring the peoples whose music and faith brought such vibrancy to the Middle East, 26 artists from Jewish, Palestinian, Muslim, and Christian backgrounds perform on oud, theorbo, medieval harp, zither, strings, and exotic percussion.

In this musical tour of the four quarters of Old Jerusalem (Jewish, Christian, Arab, and Armenian), surprising cross-influences emerge. A Sephardic ballad leads to a classical Arabic love song; selections from Monteverdi's great *Vespers of 1610* echo the exotic and rapturous singing of the Jewish cantors in the temples. The rhythms of daily life – love, singing, dancing and prayer – culminate in a joyous celebration of shared humanity. Tel Aviv native, **Daphna Mor**, returns as a featured performer on recorder and ney.

- For tickets and venue information, visit www.apollosfire.org or call 216-360-0012.
- Use code "JFED" for ticket discount.

View of Damascus Gate with Camel Drivers, Jerusalem, c. 1844 (oil on board), Caffi, Ippolito (1809-66) / Galleria Internazionale d'Arte Moderna, Ca' Pesaro, Venice, Italy / © Mondadori Electa / Bridgeman Images

MANDEL JCC CLEVELAND JEWISH BOOK FESTIVAL

Presented by the Mandel Jewish Community Center

The 26th annual Cleveland Jewish Book Festival will showcase a broad selection of fiction and non-fiction books and authors with Israeli and Jewish themes. Join These Acclaimed Authors to Hear the Stories Behind Their Books.

- Please visit www.mandeljcc.org/bookfest for more information and tickets.

 Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



"I WANTED TO BE WONDERFUL"

by **Lihi Lapid**

Monday, November 10, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

Mandel JCC
26001 South Woodland Rd, Beachwood

"I Wanted to Be Wonderful" follows the lives of two women in their first years of motherhood. One is a fictional character trying to live the happily-ever-after life we all imagined for ourselves. The second woman is the author herself, relating her real life story. It's a story of metamorphosis, from independent working woman to mother, helpless in the face of the discovery that there's something wrong with her small daughter—something very seriously wrong.

Lihi Lapid is a bestselling Israeli author, photojournalist, columnist, and activist who is married to the former prime minister of Israel, Yair Lapid. This is her third novel.



"BETHLEHEM ROAD: Stories of Immigration and Exile"

by **Judy Stonehill Lev**

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 @ 12 pm

Mandel JCC
26001 South Woodland Rd, Beachwood

"Bethlehem Road" is a series of short stories set in Jerusalem that follow the struggles of twelve immigrants searching for meaning and happiness on Jerusalem's Bethlehem Road, a vibrant thoroughfare, in late 20th century Israel.

Judy Lev's short stories and essays appear in leading literary journals, anthologies, and popular magazines. She is a writing teacher, mentor, and Pushcart Prize nominee. A former Cleveland, Lev has lived in Israel since 1967, where she is mother to three and grandmother to five.



The Mandel JCC is a proud beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.



NOA YEDLIN

Presented by Siegal Lifelong Learning at CWRU

February 24 – 25, 2026



Best Selling Israeli author **Noa Yedlin** talks about her book "Stockholm," a refreshing, ingeniously plotted dark comedy about a tight-knit circle of seniors who attempt to hide the death of one of their best friends so he can win the Nobel Prize for Economics. Noa delves into the novel's themes of friendship, success, egos, aging, and mortality.

Noa Yedlin is the recipient of the Sapir Prize (the Israeli Man Booker) and the Prime Minister's Literature Award. She was named by Haaretz Magazine one of "66 Israeli Women You Should Know".

- For details, visit www.case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, or email lifelonglearning@case.edu.



Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



EL SUEÑO / THE AMERICAN DREAM

presented by Maltz Museum

September 18, 2025 – February 16, 2026

2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood

Photographer Tom Kiefer's El Sueño Americano / The American Dream is a traveling exhibition documenting the migrant experience at the U.S./Mexico border. The exhibition will also feature works from contemporary Mexican American artist Elizabeth Z. Pineda, whose artwork explores complex issues related to identity, displacement, and migrant deaths that occur in the Arizona desert.

- For information, visit maltzmuseum.org or call 216-593-0595.



The Maltz Museum is a proud beneficiary partner of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

ISRAELI BOOK CLUB Calling all readers!

Cleveland Israel Arts Connection is excited to host an Israeli book club. This new program is an opportunity to read and discuss Israeli authors and books with our CIAC community. If you are interested in learning more, please let us know by scanning the QR Code.

All books and conversations will be in English.



A Staged Reading of "RIGHTS OF PASSAGE"

by **Kitty Dubin**

directed by **Mitchell Fields**

Presented by Mandel JCC



October 26 – 27, 2025

Mandel JCC
26001 South Woodland Road
Beachwood

Equal parts comedy and drama, "Rights of Passage" is a group of five short vignettes that explore the defining moments in the journey of life from *bris* to *shiva*.

- For reservations visit mandeljcc.org/Arts-and-Culture.



SIEGAL LIFELONG LEARNING PRESENTS

To register, visit www.case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, email lifelonglearning@case.edu



ART ACROSS GENERATIONS: BEARING WITNESS TO THE HOLOCAUST

Carol Salus, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Art History, Kent State University

Thursdays, October 16 – November 6, 2025 @ 10:30 am – 12 pm

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Through art, memory, and reflection, this unique course offers a compelling look at how creativity becomes a lasting voice for remembrance, resilience, and the shared human experience across generations.



SARAFANS, SANDALS, AND SWIMSUITS: 80 YEARS OF ISRAELI FASHION

Einav Rabinovitch, Lecturer, Department of History, Case Western Reserve University

Wednesdays, October 22 – November 19, 2025 @ 10:30 am – 12 pm

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Explore the evolution of Israeli fashion, from the days of the British Mandate to current day. We'll discuss what defines Israeli fashion, examine iconic designs, and explore the diverse fashion traditions developed in Israel in the past 80 years and their impact on global fashion trends.



CHAGALL ET. AL.: JEWISH ARTISTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Lee Rubinstein, Instructor of Lifelong Learning

Thursdays, October 16 – November 20, 2025 @ 3 – 4:30 pm

Online

Since the beginning of their history, Jews have excelled in the arts. As far back as the time of Moses, Bezalel was the first artisan named in the Bible.

Since then, Jewish men and women have created art in many forms. This course will explore well-known Jewish artists such as Marc Chagall, Amedeo Modigliani, and others.



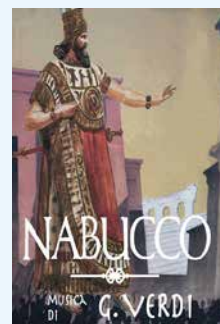
THE GREATEST STORIES EVER SUNG: BIBLE THEMED OPERAS

Larry Josefovitz, Cantor

Thursdays, October 30 – November 20, 2025 @ 1:30 – 3 pm

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Opera enriches the dimension of storytelling by transforming narratives into immersive, multidimensional experiences through music, drama, and visual spectacle. Operas based on Biblical stories elevate these texts beyond words, deepening their spiritual resonance.



SIEGAL LIFELONG LEARNING PRESENTS

To register, visit www.case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, email lifelonglearning@case.edu



ART AND WORDS: A HEALING ODYSSEY

Shira Atik, Poet and Literary Translator, and Julie Goldstein, Poet, Expressive Arts Therapist, and Educator

Fridays, November 14 – December 12, 2025 @ 10:30 am – 12 pm

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

In times of uncertainty, we often turn to the arts for meaning, comfort, and connection. Explore the transformative power of words and images through an engaging mix of visual art, poetry, and personal expression.



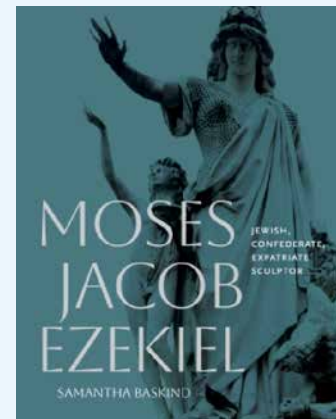
MOSES JACOB EZEKIEL: JEWISH, CONFEDERATE, EXPATRIATE SCULPTOR

Samantha Baskind, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Art History, Cleveland State University

Wednesday, December 3, 2025 @ 10:30 am – 12 pm

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Renowned Jewish American artist Moses Jacob Ezekiel was of the most popular artist-celebrities of his time. As a teenager, Ezekiel fought for the Confederacy and was friends with Robert E. Lee. Ezekiel created over 100 sculptures, but his controversial Confederate statues have since overshadowed his other major accomplishments.



ICONS, IDENTITY, AND INNOVATION: THE JEWISH MUSEUM, NEW YORK CITY

Carol Salus, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Art History, Kent State University

Thursday, December 4, 2025 @ 1:30 – 3 pm

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Join us for a powerful remote journey through Jewish identity and creativity at the newly renovated Jewish Museum in New York City. This tour offers a thought-provoking exploration of heritage, memory, and artistic innovation that spans generations and cultures.





CLEVELAND ISRAEL ARTS CONNECTION

The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection is a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, connecting our community with the most dynamic 21st century cultural experiences that Israel has to offer. Working in partnership with Northeast Ohio's leading arts organizations, we strive to identify, enhance, promote, and create unique and engaging Israeli cultural opportunities.

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We regret the omission of any names.

WAYS YOU
CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

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israelarts@jewishcleveland.org

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strong, and growing by supporting
the Campaign for Jewish Needs.

Become a Cleveland Israel Arts Connection
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Ensure creative Israel arts programming
by responding with your own ideas and programs.

BECOME A
PATRON
of Cleveland Israel Arts Connection

Join our Patron Society and help ensure high-quality,
thought-provoking, and emotional Israeli arts and
culture continues in Cleveland.

You will enjoy "Meet the Artist" receptions, name recognition in
the twice-yearly arts brochures and on jewishcleveland.org,
plus the satisfaction of knowing you are helping connect
Cleveland and Israel through the arts.

For more information about the Patron Society,
please contact **Rebecca Sattin** at
rsattin@jewishcleveland.org
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