



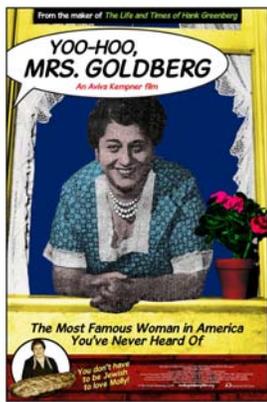
## CRANDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

# Film and the Jewish Experience

Sponsored in part with a grant from the  
Jewish Federation of Northeast New York with assistance from Temple Beth-El, Glens Falls  
**A discussion will follow each film**

## Yoo-Hoo Mrs. Goldberg

(USA, 2009, 92 min., color, 35mm)



Aviva Kempner directed this documentary tribute which celebrates the work of groundbreaking radio and TV star and writer Gertrude Berg. Her hit TV show, which moved from radio to TV in 1949 to 1956, **The Goldberg's** won her a **Best Actress Emmy** and the admiration of viewers. At the time, polls indicated Berg was the second most respected woman in the country just after Eleanor Roosevelt. And why? As Molly Goldberg, Gertrude Berg played the quintessential Jewish mother in the successful sitcom, talking to her New York City Jewish neighbors out her back window, imparting wisdom, humor and family values as well as endearing herself to general audiences and critics alike. Included are fantastic clips from the show and from the 1950-1960s hits, **I Love Lucy**, **The Honeymooners**, **The Ed Sullivan Show** and the Marx Brothers. Among others, the film includes interviews with Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; actor Ed Asner; creator of **All in the Family**, Norman Lear; and NPR's Susan Stamberg.

"What is remarkable is that Berg was not only an accomplished actress...but also a capable businesswoman who made all the decisions on the show, hired and fired, dealt with the financial matters and joined in the businesses of her husband, the coffee millionaire... She wasn't glamorous, but she made you feel right at home." - Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun Times, 6/29/09

**Tuesday, March 8**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Community Room, Lower Level**

## A Film Unfinished

(Germany/Israel, 2009, 87 min., color & b&w, 35mm)



Yael Hersonski premiered her documentary film at the Sundance Film Festival, 2010. The film deconstructs the Nazi produced propaganda film about the Warsaw Ghetto in May 1942 where half a million starving Jews were sealed off in the Ghetto. The film was discovered after the war in an East German archive, was never completed, has no soundtrack and has been used by historians studying the Warsaw Ghetto and Nazi propaganda against the Jews in Poland. One of the cameramen who shot parts of the film is interviewed and provides detailed information on the production of the film. Hersonski's documentary includes a missing reel of film discovered long after the film was first

discovered which shed light on the fact that many scenes were staged by the Nazis to vilify the Jews of the Ghetto. It is both terrifying and tragic to view the images of the victims of the Nazi evil.

"And no one knows why the film remained unfinished. I would like to think that the footage was too terrible for even the Nazi propagandists to bear – that the hard stares of passersby into the camera chilled them as much as it does us, 68 years later... It becomes a meditation on the dual nature of film, on a "reality" at once true and false, essential and tainted." - David Edelstein, New York Magazine, 8/11/10.

**Tuesday, March 15**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Community Room, Lower Level**

**The discussion will be led by Rabbi Matthew Durbin of Temple Beth-El, Glens Falls and Rabbi Rose Durbin**

# Ajami

(Israel, 2009, 120 min., color, 35mm)



Scandar Copti who is an Israeli Arab and Yaron Shani who is Jewish collaborated on this Academy Award nominated feature film for **Best Foreign Film**, 2010. Set in a tough neighborhood in Jaffa considered a part Tel Aviv, crime is rampant and unemployment the reality of the day in these mean streets. The tension in the film centers on many intertwining stories including: an accidental shooting that brings on fears of reprisal; a Palestinian working illegally in Israel to pay for his mother's medical bills; and an Israeli policeman who searches relentlessly for his missing brother. Family and religious ties dominate this drama, which has been called Shakespearean in themes and depth. Using mostly nonprofessional actors,

the pace of the film and shooting style coupled with the film's "chapter" structure gives almost a documentary feel.

"...the film is acutely insightful about the social divisions within Israel, but it examines them without scolding or sentimentality. There is no finger-pointing here, and no group hugging either. Instead there is a sharp sense of just how deep and wide the schisms are, not just between Jews and Arabs but also between Christians and Muslims, rich and poor, farmers and city dwellers, men and women, young and old..." - A. O. Scott, **New York Times**, 2/3/10

**Tuesday, March 22**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Community Room, Lower Level**

## **The discussion will be led by Dr. Arthur Brenner, University at Albany**

Dr. Arthur Brenner teaches Jewish history at the University at Albany. Previously he taught at Siena College. He is the author of *Emil J. Gumbel: Weimar Pacifist and Professor* and the co-editor and co-author of *Death Squads in Global Perspective*.

## **Film and the Jewish Experience Sponsors:**



This program is made possible in part with public funds from the Electronic Media and Film Program of the State of the New York State Council of the Arts, a state agency, celebrating 50 years of building strong, creative communities in New York State's 62 counties and the Experimental Television Center.



Listening assistive devices are supplied upon request.



For wheelchair access, use the main Glen Street entrance. There is an elevator at the Glen Street entrance that accesses the Community Room where the films are screened. Staff will help anyone who needs additional assistance. Handicapped parking is available on Glen Street in front of the Library.

***For more information about the festival, please call Crandall Public Library at 792-6508, extension 3 OR check out our web site at [www.crandalllibrary.org](http://www.crandalllibrary.org). To learn how you or your business can become a sponsor, call 792-6508, extension 284.***



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