

November 10, 11 & 15th 2015

RWU Film and Speaker Series on the Jewish Experience

Three events in November that focus on the Jewish experience through short films, documentary, media and a guest speaker. Presented in partnership with *FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival*, the *Helene and Bertram Bernhardt Foundation*, the *RWU Department of Communication and Graphic Design*, the *RWU Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences*, Dean Robert Eisinger, Associate Dean Roberta Adams, the *RWU Film Production Collaborative*, *RWU Hillel*, and the *Spiritual Life Office*.



These events are free and open to the general public.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10th:

IMMUTABLE MEMORIES: THE HOLOCAUST

Introduced by Adjunct Professor George T. Marshall and the Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup, University Multifaith Chaplain, RWU

At the End of the Line

Directed by: Robert Kerr | 5 min. USA 2015

A short film about the Kindertransport program in 1939, saving thousands of young Jewish lives from the talons of Nazi Germany. Told through archival images and music.

Picking Up the Pieces

Directed by: Joshua Tebeau | 27 min. Belgium, Canada, Germany, Poland, USA, United Kingdom, 2015

'Picking Up the Pieces' explores the memories, emotions, and beliefs of a diverse group of Jewish Child Survivors. It shows how children coped with their trauma in rebuilding their lives after the Holocaust. Jewish Child survivors were largely silent for 40 years after the Holocaust. As a result the 'child's perspective' of this tragedy has been largely untold. This film asks the question: How do you 'live' after surviving the Holocaust? It does so by focusing on 5 themes of special relevance to survivors: Forgiveness, Belief in God, Home, Jewish Identity and Memory.

Never Forget - A March of the Living Story

Directed by: Adam Dostalek | 30 min. Australia / Israel, Poland, 2015

This culturally significant film showcases the directors journey on a personal and spiritual journey in the steps of his forefathers. In April / June 2014 he traveled to Poland and Israel to participate in the Young Adult March of the Living Program. Apart from being a participant he also went to create a Documentary about the March of the Living program and why it is so significant. This program sends Jews from all over the world to learn about the atrocities of the Holocaust and to examine the roots of intolerance, prejudice and hate. It also commemorates the establishment of the state of Israel. The purpose of this film is so that people, especially Jews, from all around the world can be made aware of this amazing opportunity. The Holocaust is such a dark moment in History

and should never be forgotten. The goal is to inspire people from all around the world to want to participate in a program that is so important for our History and an integral part of a Jewish Legacy. The experience of walking in the shoes of ones forefathers is a powerful and emotional experience and the reality of the next 20 to 25 years, is the end of that era, where no longer will we be able to turn to survivors and ask them. This highlights the need for march and its significance as a historical experience, and the need for this film to perpetuate that message.

The Kozalchik Affair

Directed by: Roni Ninio | 53 min. Israel, Poland, 2015

This moving film, is about an industrialist named Itzik Shaked – Kozalchik, who travels for the first time to Block 11, the Death Block in Auschwitz, to witness with his own eyes, the place where his father had ruled relentlessly during 1943-1945 as the block's Kapo. Even though Jacob Kozalchik collaborated with the Nazis, he secretly managed to save many Jews and Poles from certain death, right under the eyes of the Nazis. Despite this, Kozalchik was betrayed and turned-in to the authorities when he arrived in Palestine in 1947, making him into a desolate wanted criminal. His son, Itzik, who never knew his father, embarks on a fateful journey to discover the truth, to discover his real father- Kozalchik the hero or the villain?

Featuring a discussion with **Rev. Soukup**, who has studied the Holocaust as part of her research on religious and refugee movements from 1939-1951. Currently, she is completing her study about the Unitarian Service Committee's work in Europe as a refugee and rescue organization as war commences and later as one of many religious and secular relief organizations throughout Europe after the war. Its founders, the Rev. Waitstill Sharp and Martha Sharp, are only two of three Americans honored among Yad Vashem's Righteous Among the Nations for saving Jews from the Nazi regime. Rev. Soukup holds an M.A. in human rights history from Boston College and is completing her Doctorate of Ministry at Andover Newton Theological School.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, Room 01
Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Cost: Free Admission

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11th:

FACING FORWARD WHILE LOOKING BACKWARD: THE JEWISH EXPERIENCE TODAY

Introduced by the

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup, University Multifaith Chaplain, RWU

If The Trees Could Talk

Directed by: Michael Weinstein | 24 min. USA 2014

A young Jewish girl and her family escape the ghetto and seek refuge in the forest. Struggling to survive, their horror is compounded by what may be the girl's ultimate demise. Can she be saved by a spiritual force more powerful than we can imagine?

At Midnight

Directed by: Amber McBride | 4 min. Australia, 2014

Maria escaped from Communist Hungary seeking creative freedom, but her husband could not tear himself away from his successful filmmaking career to go with her. As she

attempted to build a new life in Australia, he made a feature film about her escape. His film was revolutionary for its time and wildly successful. 57 years later, this film tells her version of the story.

The Red Sweater

Directed by: Konstantinos Mousoulis | 20 min. USA 2014

A madly in love, young Jewish woman goes on an emotional ride with her dearly beloved Grandma as she hopes for Grandma's blessing to get married... nope, he's not a doctor... he's a heavy metal drummer.

Life According to Ohad

Directed by: Eri Daniel Erlich | 80 min. Israel, 2014

Ohad, 32 years old, hasn't been in touch with his family for years. The loneliness is getting to him and he's trying to reconnect with them. His parents' dream is for the whole family to sit together at the dinner table, just like any other normal family. Finally it's about to come true, but Ohad is setting one rule: his parents need to know his world and his reasons for not wanting to be in touch with them in the first place.

Location: Global Heritage Hall, Room 01

Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: *Free Admission*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16th:

FORWARD MOVEMENTS: TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES

Introduced by the Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup, University Multifaith Chaplain

Look At Us Now, Mother!

Directed by: Gayle Kirschenbaum | 84 min. France, India, USA, 2015

A sensitive daughter and her critical mother explore their past to fix their future. Told with biting humor and raw honesty, this is an intimate story about family dysfunctions, forgiveness and healing.

Comprised primarily of decades-worth of intimate family home movies and videos that were never meant for public viewing - from 8 mm film coverage of Gayle's outwardly "Leave it to Beaveresque" childhood in an upwardly-mobile Long Island suburb, to personal family celebrations, fights, and even tragedies right up to the present – it's the story of one determined woman's quest to reconcile with and understand her past – which means forgiving her proud, narcissistic and formidable elderly mother, Mildred.

Look At Us Now Mother! may be about one mother-daughter relationship, but its insights and lessons are universal. In order to move forward into the future, we all have to forgive what happened in our pasts. Understanding is the first step in that journey. Gayle Kirschenbaum brings her unique brand of fearless honesty and laugh-aloud humor to a film that took decades to shoot, about a relationship that took a lifetime to mend.

Plus the 2015 RIIFF First Prize Award Winner:

The Train

Directed by: Asher Grodman | 10 min. United States, 2015

A meeting with a holocaust survivor (Eli Wallach, in his last performance) teaches a self-consumed and preoccupied young man that life can change in a moment. Inspired by a true story.

'I was very much moved by the story and the players. What a fitting exit for a grand master of the performing arts Eli Wallach.' - Steven Spielberg

Location: Global Heritage Hall, Room 01
Roger Williams University, One Old Ferry Road, Bristol, RI

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Cost: *Free Admission*

A Reception Sponsored by RWU Spiritual Life Office will take place during the intermission.