

DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES SELECTIONS

From Sinai Temple Library, Los Angeles

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Ani lo filipina = I'm not Filipina. Anat Tel. Israel: Docaviv, 2010.

Documentary about a six-year-old Filipino girl who is blind and was born in Israel is adopted by a Filipino worker who must now in order to increase their chances to stay in Israel have an eye operation which will increase her eyesight. Hebrew with English subtitles. 51min.

****Ahead of Time -- The Extraordinary Journey of Ruth Gruber.*** Bob Richman. National Center for Jewish Film, 2011.

Documentary of the noted Jewish journalist, foreign correspondent and feminist. 73min.

****Among the Righteous -- Lost Stories From the Holocaust in Arab Lands.*** Susan L Mills. PBS, 2010.

Documentary describes what the Nazis did in the Arab countries during the Holocaust and who some of the righteous gentiles of those countries were. 60min.

Arusi Persian Wedding. Marjan Tehrani. Independent Lens, 2009.

Documentary chronicles an Iranian-American's return with his American wife to Iran in order to have a Persian wedding ceremony in his native land. 60min.

Bam 6.6 -- Humanity Has No Borders. Jahangir Golestan-Parast. Essenceofiran, 2008.

Documentary of a young American Jewish girl and her fiancé as they go to Bam, a historic town in the heart of Iran. 55min.

Birth of a Community -- Jews and the Gold Rush. Bill Chayes. Chayes, 1996.

Describes the Jews who went to California in search of gold and how they retained their religious and communal life. 42min.

****Blessed is the Match -- The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh.*** Roberta Grossman. Katahdin, 2008.

Documentary examines the life of Hannah Senesh and all the work she did for the Resistance movement. 45min.

****Bridge Over the Wadi.*** Barak Heymann and Tomer Heymann. Global Voices, 2007.

Documentary follows students and families in a school in Israel in which a group of Jewish and Arab parents have established a bi-national and bi-lingual curriculum. Contains English subtitles. 57min.

****Children of the Sun.*** Ran Tal. Lama, 2007.

Documentary through a collage of interviews and home movies about the kibbutz movement from 1930-1970. 70min.

Divan. Pearl Gluck. Zeitgeist, 2003.

Documentary about a person that travels to Hungary to retrieve the family couch. 77min.

****Edie and Thea.*** Susan Muska and Greta Olafsdottir. Breaking Glass Pictures, 2010.

Documentary examines the romance and eventual marriage between two women from when they met in the 1960's through to the 21st century. 61min.

Facing Arthur. Stefan Knerrich. Anchor Bay, 2002.

Documentary about the friendship between a 100-year-old Holocaust survivor who was a concert violinist and a 20-year-old German cellist whose grandfather served in Hitler's army. 60min.

***Gut Shabbes Vietnam.** Ido Zand and Yael Zand. Zandoco, 2008.
Documentary of a Chabad family that moves to Vietnam and sets up a house there. 52min.

Heir to an Execution -- A Granddaughter's Story. Ivy Meeropol. HBO, 2004.
Documentary of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg covering both the trial and their home life. 99min.

***Hiding and Seeking -- Faith and Tolerance after the Holocaust.** Menachem Daum. Run Features, 2004. A Jewish father takes his ultra-orthodox sons to Poland to find the Christian farmers who hid and saved their family during World War II, hoping to teach his sons about tolerance, trust and to recognize the potential decency of all people. 85min.

Komediant. Arnon Goldfinger. Zebra, 1997.
Documentary examines the history of American Yiddish Theater. 87min.

***Koran by Heart.** Sheila Nevins. HBO, 2011.
Documentary follows three 10-year-old children as they leave their native countries to participate in the international Holy Koran reading competition, held every year in Cairo. 80min.

Leaving the Fold. Frederic Bohbot. Ontic, 2008.
Documentary about young Hassidic and ultra-Orthodox Jews in Montreal, New York and Israel who try to free themselves from the societies from which they were raised. 52min.

Lost World of the Holy Land. Gail Willumsen. WNET, 2001.
DVD shows how programs by Israeli and Arab conservationists are designed to restore endangered animal populations. 60min.

Love Iranian-American Style. Tanaz Eshaghian. Documentary Educational Resources, 2006.
Documentary follows the life of a 25-year-old American Jewish Iranian woman as she tries to fit into Iranian community and American society. 63min.

Make Me a Match. Allen Mondell and Cynthia Salzman Mondell. Media Projects, 2005
Examines the Jewish dating scene and various Jewish dating services. 60min.

My 100 Children. Amalia Margolin and Oshra Schwartz. JCS, 2003.
Documentary about a Holocaust survivor who cared for 100 children from 1945-1949 who survived the Holocaust and brought them to Israel. 68min.

***My Flesh and Blood.** Jonathan Karsh. New Video Group, 2004.
Documents a year in the life of a divorced woman caring for her eleven emotionally and or physically disabled adopted children. 83min.

***The Name My Mother Gave Me.** Eli Tal-Ei. Ruth Diskin, 2009.
Documentary follows a group of Israeli adolescents, mostly born in Ethiopia, on a life changing journey. 60min.

***The New Samaritans.** Alexander Shabataev. Alden Films, 2008.
Documentary about two Samaritans from Israel who search for wives from outside their community. 52min.

One Hundred Voices -- A Journey Home. Matthew Asner and Danny Gold. MOD Three, 2011.
Chronicles the mission of a large group of world famous cantors to Poland where they travel throughout the country and then conduct a memorial service at the gates of Auschwitz. 91min.

***Paper Clips.** Elliot Berlin. Hart Sharp, 2005.

Relates the true story of how a middle school in a rural town in Tennessee created a Holocaust memorial using paper clips. 80min.

***A Paralyzing Fear -- The Story of Polio in America.** Nina Gilden Seavey. George Washington University, 1998. Documentary of the story of Polio, its effects, the epidemic, and the cure. 90min.

***The People v. Leo Frank.** Ben Loeterman. Ben Loeterman, 2009.

Documentary examines the murder case in 1913 in which a Jew was accused, convicted, and later lynched in Atlanta, Georgia. 85min.

***Please Vote For Me.** Weijun Chen. First Run Features, 2008.

Follows elections for class monitor at a Chinese grammar school and examines how the children take to this exercise in democracy. In Mandarin with English subtitles. 58min.

Protocols of Zion. Marc Levin. Think Film, 2006.

Documents the rise of anti-Semitism after the events of September 11, 2001, and challenges the conspiracy theory "The protocols of the elders of Zion" in which some groups believe it is the Jews' master plan to rule the world. 95min.

Saved by Deportation -- An Unknown Odyssey of Polish Jews. Slawomir Grunbeg. Alden Films, 2008.

Documentary follows the lives of seven people who survived the Holocaust because Stalin had deported them to Siberia, along with many other Jews,. 79min.

Secret Origin -- The Story of DC Comics. Mac Carter. Warner Bros., 2010.

Documentary about DC comics. 90min.

Shadya. Danny Hakim, Udi Kalinsky, and Roy Wrestler. Independent Lens, 2004.

Documentary about the life of a 17-year-old Arab-Israeli woman who is a world champion in karate. 60min.

Shanghai Ghetto. Dana Janklowicz-Mann. Docurama, 2005.

Documentary on the European Jewish refugee community in Japanese occupied Shanghai during World War II. 95min.

Strange Fruit. Joel Katz. California Newsreel, 2002.

Documentary of the life of a poem written in 1937, entitled "Strange Fruit" in which Bronx-born high school teacher Abel Meeropol, after seeing a photo depicting the lynching of a black man in the south, wrote this poem, he then set the poem to music and a few years later convinced Billy Holiday to record it in a legendary heartbreaking performance. 57min.

***Sugihara - Conspiracy of Kindness.** Robert Kirk. WGBH, 2005.

Documentary of the Japanese diplomat in Lithuania who saved as many as 10,000 Jews during the Holocaust. 82min.

These Are My Names -- Every Name Tells a Story. Ruth Mason. RuthFilms, 2010.

Documentary about the significance of names for Ethiopian Israelis. 30min.

Trembling Before God. Sandi Simcha Dubowski. New Yorker, 2003, 2001.

Documentary of gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews. 84min,

***Watermarks.** Yaron Zilberman. Kino, 2005.

Documentary of champion Jewish women swimmers from Vienna and the prejudice and anti-semitism they encountered in the 1930's and 1940's. 77min.

*stars – those films that were most well received, although all are very good!