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Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan Launches Virtual Passover Film Festival Plus Special Passover Programming + Events

New York, NY (March 31, 2022) – The **Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan (MMJCCM)** announced today the schedule for its 2022 Passover programming and events, including the launch of the first annual virtual **Passover Film Festival**. This year, Passover will be celebrated with a mix of in-person and virtual events from **April 14–24, 2022**. Details and registration information are available at passover.mmjccm.org.

Streaming on demand April 14–24, the first annual virtual **Passover Film Festival**, presented by the MMJCCM in partnership with organizations across the country, will offer eight Jewish and Israeli movies engaging with the themes of Passover, including connecting with the past, tradition, strangers in a foreign land, redemption, and miracles. The **Passover Film Festival** is presented with support from the Maimonides Fund. Partners of the 2022 festival include 70 Faces Media, *The Jewish Week*, JCC Association of North America, the Consulate General of Israel-New York, *Hadassah*, and Go2Films; additional support will be provided by over 40 Presenting Partners from across the country.

“For years, we have been recommending films to incorporate into family Seders to provide modern experiences for Passover,” says **Isaac Zablocki**, Director of the Carole Zabar Center for Film at the MMJCCM. “The messages of Passover are a rich resource, and we’re excited to present these films as a way to connect to the themes, and deepen the experience of the holiday.”

The films available in this year’s **Passover Film Festival** include: **The Other Story** (Dir. Avi Neshet, 2019); **Redemption** (Dir. Joseph Madmoni and Boaz Yehonatan Yacov, 2018); **Leaving Paradise** (Dir. Ofer Freiman, 2021); **There Are No Lions in Tel Aviv** (Dir. Duki Dror, 2019); **Shadow in Baghdad** (Dir. Duki Dror, 2013); **Rabenu (Our Rabbi) - I’m a Wonder Man** (Dir. Ori Gruder, 2021); **My Hero Brother** (Dir. Yonatan Nir, 2019); and **Yerusalem: The Incredible Story of Ethiopian Jewry** (Dir. Levi Zini, 2021). For more details and to purchase streaming passes, please visit passoverfilmfestival.com.

To enhance the festival experience and create space for audiences to further explore the themes of the holiday, the **Passover Film Festival** will present video conversations with the filmmakers and additional resources created by *My Jewish Learning*.

In addition to the festival, MMJCCM will celebrate the holiday with special virtual and in-person Seders and programs. Programs include a 20s + 30s Passover Scavenger Hunt in Central Park and Matzah Pizza Mixer; a Center for Special Needs Passover Seder; a Passover-themed Positive Psychology Hour; and Seder Queen, a Jews of Color-Centered Seder. A Virtual Haggadah, recipes, and other resources, are available leading up to the holiday at passover.mmjccm.org.

2022 PASSOVER EVENTS SCHEDULE

20s + 30s Passover Scavenger Hunt in Central Park

Sunday, April 10 – In Person

Passover is almost upon us and that means it's almost time for bedikat chametz, a ceremony of searching for leavened bread, instituted to ensure that not even the smallest particle of chametz remains in the house during Passover! In honor of this sacred search, MMJCCM will partner with Strayboots for a scavenger hunt in Central Park.

A Musical Tour of the Passover Haggadah for Families

Join Elad Kabilio and the MusicTalks ensemble for an interactive performance featuring songs of the Passover Haggadah, reimagined. From a Broadway twist on "Dayenu" to the Ladino version of "Chad Gadya," this performance will celebrate the holiday of freedom with a sing-along, dancing, and exciting beats. This program will also feature some traditional Passover foods and is suitable for families with children of all ages.

Jack + Shirley Silver Center for Special Needs Passover Seder

Monday, April 11 – Virtual

Grab your matzah and meet on Zoom for a CSN Passover Seder! All participants must have an intake to join Adaptations programs.

Positive Psychology Hour: Journey from Mitzrayim — Exploring Personal Freedom with Passover as a Guide with Amanda Davidowitz

Tuesday, April 12 – Virtual

During Passover, Jewish people relive the story of our ancestors being liberated from slavery in Egypt. Mitzrayim, the Hebrew name for Egypt, can be translated to mean "constriction" or "the narrow place." As free individuals in modern society, we can explore a symbolic Mitzrayim. In this presentation, Amanda Davidowitz will invite you to explore how and where you feel constricted, and to appreciate and create meaningful intentions for the freedom you possess. This interactive workshop will incorporate (gentle and accessible) yoga, meditation, journaling, and discussion.

Passover Film Festival

April 14–24 – Virtual

The Virtual Passover Film Festival, presented by the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, is a fun and exciting approach to engaging with the themes of Passover -- through great films! For ten nights, we will present diverse and engaging Jewish and Israeli movies to add a new dimension to your Passover experience. Films are only available in North America. Presented with support from the Maimonides Fund, and in partnership with *My Jewish Learning*.

Seder Queen 5782: Moses of the City

Friday, April 15 – HYBRID: In Person and Virtual

Co-led by Marques Hollie and Lab/Shul Associate Director and Ritual Leader Naomi Less, we will use the *Moses of the City* Haggadah created by our artist in residence, Luis Burgos, to create a multi-access Passover ritual centering the views and understandings of Jews of Color as they relate to the holiday. Seder Queen reflects the diversity of Judaism and lifts up the work of Jews of Color in Jewish spaces that have been historically white. We hope that other Jews of Color will experience Seder Queen as transformative, and know that they are not alone. We also hope that white Jews will be moved to do the work of liberation alongside us and know that JOCs are integral to Jewish continuity and to our communal spaces.

20s and 30s Matzah Pizza Mixer

Tuesday, April 19 – In Person

Looking for a way to spice up your Passover? We have the perfect recipe. Come to the JCC to make matzah pizza, enjoy quality kosher for Passover wine, and experience some surprise entertainment! At the start of the event, we will break into groups and make matzah pizza using kitchen torches and a variety of kosher for Passover ingredients. After noshing, we will break out the wine and enjoy some mingling, followed by a fun surprise activity.

ABOUT THE MARLENE MEYERSON JCC MANHATTAN

Together with its community, the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan creates opportunities for people to connect, grow, and learn within an ever-changing Jewish landscape. Located on 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, the JCC is a vibrant non-profit community center on the Upper West Side. It also presents a robust slate of virtual programming, serving an even wider community. The JCC serves over 55,000 people annually through 1,200 programs each season that educate, inspire, and transform participants' minds, bodies, and spirits. Throughout COVID-19, the JCC has pivoted to meet the community online, exceeding 102,000 registrations to over 3,000 virtual classes and programs in the earliest part of the pandemic. Since its inception, the JCC has been committed to serving the community by offering programs, classes, and events that extend beyond neighborhood boundaries, reaching people at all stages of their lives.

Learn more at mmjccm.org

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