

# 2006 SEATTLE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

## Sunday, March 5th / Pacific Place

**Il'Fornaio VIP Lunch at 11:30 am and 2 pm screening of 'Fateless' at Pacific Place Cinemas.** This is a NW premiere of Hungary's submission for the Academy Awards® 'Best Foreign Language Film' category. *This film has been dedicated to Hedwig Dunie, who survived Auschwitz, and to her parents, sister, brother and niece who died there. Dedicated by her son, SJFF Co-Chair Moshe Dunie.*

## Saturday, March 11th / Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI)

**'Live and Become' at 7 pm.** There will be a 7:00 pm Film and Dessert Extravaganza Reception for patrons, passholders and those purchasing a \$50 combination film & reception ticket. VIP and Full Festival pass holders who attend the 1st showing of 'Live and Become' and the Dessert Extravaganza will also have an added perk! An invitation that night to a **private viewing of MOHAI's newest exhibit, the world renowned 1946 exhibit, *Theatre de la Monde Mannequens*** with sets from Post WWII Paris, a special exhibit featuring world famous French designers, plus miniature dolls and full size couture fashions. The exhibit will be open from 7 to 11 pm that evening.

## Sunday, March 12th / MOHAI

**1:30 pm 'Forgotten Refugees.'** 'Forgotten Refugees' special guest Seattle native son Rafi Finegold of The David Project.

**1:30 pm '10 Days in Gaza.'** '10 Days in Gaza' with special guest Gadi Sukenik, Israel's channel 2 evening news anchor.

**4:30 pm 'A Cantor's Tale.'** *'A Cantor's Tale' is dedicated in memory of SJFF committee-member Cantor Harry P. Silversmith from Shelley Silversmith Dillon and James Dillon.*

**6:30 pm 'Sophie Scholl: The Final Days.'** 'Sophie Scholl' has been nominated for an Academy Award® 'Best Foreign Language Film'. SJFF has premiered in the past 2 Oscar winners: 'Last Days' and 'Nowhere in Africa.' We consider ourselves something of a good luck charm for the BFL category, and hope this year is no different. Two screenings: Sunday, March 12th 6:30pm and Monday, March 13th 4pm.

## Wednesday, March 15th / MOHAI

**6:30 pm American Technion Students and '39 Pounds of Love.'** American Technion Society students from Israel will attend '39 Pounds of Love.'

## Thursday, March 16th / Stroum JCC & MOHAI

**Stroum JCC Lunch and Films: 'Jews of Iran' and 'Esther's Book' (short).** At MOHAI 6:30 pm 'Ushpizin' and 8:50 pm 'Checking Out.' With special guests director Jeff Hare and screenwriter Richard Marcus.

## CLOSING NIGHT WEEKEND / MOHAI

**Saturday, March 18th 9:10 pm 'Joy,'** an award-winning Israeli film. **Sunday, March 19th 1:00 pm Family Film Series; 5:15 pm 'Schwartz Dynasty,'** another award-winning Israeli film. **Closing Night Awards Ceremony & film 'Go for Zucker.'**



SEATTLE JEWISH  
**FILM**  
FESTIVAL

**March 11th-19th. Tickets on sale NOW! Call**  
**our live, 24 hour hotline at 1.800.838.3006 or**  
**visit [www.ajcseattle.org](http://www.ajcseattle.org)!**

## FilmTalks: Helping Kids Talk About Diversity

FilmTalks, AJC's unique day-long program to bring high school students from local schools together for a day of dialogue on issues of pluralism, prejudice and mutual respect, is set for March 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Like this year's Seattle Jewish Film Festival, FilmTalks will be held at the Museum of History and Industry because of its abundant free parking, multiple meeting spaces and easy access to major roadways. Over 250 students participate in FilmTalks annually. This year, we are adding Bellevue high schools to the roster, which already includes all Seattle public high schools, Mercer Island, Bishop Blanchet, Northwest Yeshiva, the Seattle Academy and Lakeside.

Primary sponsors of FilmTalks include The Tillie and Alfred Shemanski Testamentary, Bank of America, the Majestic Bay Theatre and the American Jewish Committee Belfer Center. The program is highly regarded for its ability to assist students in bridging racial, ethnic, religious and other divides. FilmTalks, like the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, the Block Student Human Relations Awards and the Human Relations Award Dinner, is all about fulfilling the AJC's mission of promoting democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve as a facilitator, please contact Pamela Lavitt at [lavittp@ajc.org](mailto:lavittp@ajc.org) or 206 622 6315, ext. 5.

## From the Executive Director: How AJC Worked to Untie the Red Cross

For decades Israel's relief society, Magen David Adom, was denied full membership in the apolitical international humanitarian movement of the Red Cross, mainly because of the opposition of members of the constituent Red Crescent Societies. Finally, however, the gross historical injustice of its exclusion has been rectified with the adoption of a new symbol for the humanitarian agency.

What is little known is the role the AJC played in bringing about this important sea change. Working at the international, national and local levels, AJC launched a full-fledged advocacy campaign. AJC met with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies officials, consulted ambassadorial representatives in New York and Washington and wrote to local consuls—all in an effort to mobilize international support for a change of attitude regarding the MDA. Joining other chapters around the country, the Seattle chapter sent letters to specific local consulates urging their countries' support. The letter read, in part:

*As you may know, the government of Switzerland has sent a note verbal to the signatories of the Geneva Conventions asking whether they would agree to hold a diplomatic conference (October 28, 2005) to amend the Third Protocol and adopt a neutral emblem that would be more representative of all the world's peoples. This would allow the Israeli organization – Magen David Adom – to become a full member of the International Committee of the Red Cross, a position supported by the United States government, the American Red Cross, and Jewish communities around the world. We have been informed that your government has not responded yet to the Swiss note. This is an issue of great importance to us. From Turkey to Sri Lanka, wherever there have been natural disasters, the Israeli Magen David Adom has volunteered its services and has given valuable assistance to people in need regardless of race, religion or nationality. Magen David Adom deserves to be a full member of the ICRC.*

In the end, as you know, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies adopted a third humanitarian relief emblem, the red crystal, as a creative solution to the longstanding dilemma of MDA's exclusion. National AJC sent personal letters of thanks to Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey and to Jakob Kellenberger, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, for their roles in securing this outcome at a diplomatic conference in Geneva attended by the 192 signatories of the Geneva Conventions.

**"We may have come to America on different ships but now we are all in the same boat."** Congressman John Lewis, speaking in Seattle on January 26th

### 2005-2006 Tributes

Following is a list of AJC donors who made tributes in honor or in memory of friends and family. Please call the office if you are interested in making a tribute gift.

**For Elie Aboulafia:** Michele Tesler. **For Andy Harris:** Michele Tesler. **For Gloria Gottesman:** Barbara Coe, Pete and Agi Day, David and Sharron Hartman, Barbara M. Hirshberg, Marilyn Kaplan, Debbie Kovsky, Sara Lynn Negrin, Edward and Pauline F. Stern, Anthony and Lynn Wartnik. **For Rabbi Anson Laytner:** Chuck Maduell. **For Amy Myers:** Rochelle Goffe, Carol Gown, Ted Klastorin, The Schneier Revocable Trust, Michele Tesler. **For Deborah Rosen:** Diane Aboulafia-D'Jaen, Carol Gown, Jeffrey and Judith Greenstein, Michele Tesler. **For Kopel Szwarcberg:** Beny Rubinstein. **For Irwin Wirth:** Laurie Crocker

#### Let Us Know How To Contact You!

If you have not heard from us in a while or if you are interested in receiving electronic publications from National and updates for upcoming events and programs please email the office at [seattle@ajc.org](mailto:seattle@ajc.org).

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## Fascinating Fellowship Offer for College Students

AJC offers a 9-week paid fellowship in International and Domestic Affairs for college juniors, seniors or grad students. These highly competitive fellowships offer opportunities to work in AJC offices throughout the world, not just domestic locations. The sites vary from year to year. Applicants can find information and specific details at [www.ajc.org](http://www.ajc.org), under the heading "About Us."

## AJC 100th Annual Meeting May 2-5, 2006

**UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and German Chancellor Angela Merkel are confirmed to address the AJC Centennial Annual Dinner in Washington, D.C.** Be there to join in celebrating AJC's century of leadership. Watch your mailbox for the Annual Meeting program. Online registration is available at <http://www.ajc.org/annualmeeting>. The Annual Meeting will be held from May 2 - 5. On May 1, AJC will host a major conference, "At a Century's End, At a Century's Beginning: The prospects for Judaism and the Jews." And, following the Annual Meeting, May 5 -7, will be the International Leadership Conference, bringing together Jewish leaders from dozens of countries around the world. Give a gift to yourselves and the future. Join us—and bring your adult children and grandchildren.

## Darfur Update by Shelly Crocker, Board Member

The situation in Darfur has continued to deteriorate since declarations of genocide by President Bush and the U.S. Congress in 2004. The United Nations reported that from October to November 2005, the number of civilian deaths in Darfur nearly doubled. Recent reports are that refugees in Chad face increasing danger.

The Seattle Chapter has been an active member of Save Darfur Washington State, a coalition of local groups working together to stop genocide in Darfur. We are currently co-sponsoring an exhibit of children's drawings, on display through February 22 at Odegaard Library at the UW, called *Smallest Witnesses: The Conflict in Darfur through Children's Eyes*. The powerful drawings graphically illustrate the trauma faced by children in Darfur. Over 100 people attended the opening. Leslie Rosen, Board President, leads the Chapter's efforts in bringing speakers, recruited and trained by the University of Washington's Save Darfur group, to local area high schools. These engagements continue throughout the spring. The exhibit was funded by Seattle AJC.

On February 15 and 16, Seattle AJC is sending three representatives to Washington DC for a Darfur Advocacy Day. Chapter president Leslie Rosen, "Smallest Witness" coordinator Michael Tarlowe, and Save Darfur leader Deborah Jones will spend a day and a half being briefed on the changing situation and meeting with elected officials to urge a more proactive stance by our nation against the genocide taking place in Darfur.

On March 28, Save Darfur Washington State will host Captain Brian Steidle, a former African Union Monitor. Capt. Steidle will relate his first-hand experiences in Darfur, and has worked with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's Committee on Conscience to raise awareness about the genocide that continues in the Sudan. In addition, planning is underway to hold a local event in connection with a national march to be held in Washington D.C. on April 30.

By continuing to focus attention on Darfur, we can bring an end to this genocide, and honor our vow, "Never Again."

*One day Rabbi Moshe Leib of Sassov told his students, "There is no quality and there is no power of man that was created to no purpose. Even base and corrupt qualities can be uplifted to serve God."*

*One student raised his hand and asked, "Rabbi, to what end can the denial of God have been created? Surely there is no purpose to atheism?"*

*Rabbi Mosheh paused and then replied, "This too can be uplifted through deeds of tzedakah. For if someone comes to you and asks your help, you shall not turn him off with pious words, saying: 'Have faith and take your troubles to God!' You shall act as if there were no God, as if there were only one person in all the world who could help this man - only yourself."*

## AJC Vocational Center in India

Construction work has begun on the AJC Vocational Center in Chennai (Madras), India, a project made possible by contributions to our tsunami relief fund. AJC's India representative, Priya Tandon, after securing national and local government approvals, was on hand as crews began construction December 10. The vocational center, to open by the spring of 2006 and serve a region devastated by the tsunami a year ago, will house a community hall and classrooms equipped for computer training, nursing, boat-building and English instruction. Also planned is a women's bank operated by Chennai fisherwomen.

# AJC Greater Seattle Chapter Update

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"The AJC builds bridges of understanding at home and abroad." -Seattle Board member



**The American Jewish Committee**

Advancing democracy, pluralism and mutual understanding

seattle chapter update winter 2006

## AJC Calendar of Upcoming Events

date/event/time/location/about

**March 5, 2006 / VIP Brunch and 'Fateless' Movie Premier / 11:30 Brunch & 2:00 pm movie premiere / Pacific Place**

This is a NW premiere of Hungary's submission for the Academy Awards® 'Best Foreign Language Film' category.

**March 13, 2006 / Luncheon Lecture Series: The Case for Intelligent Design / 12 -1:30 pm College Club**

**Casey Luskin**, program officer for public policy and legal affairs at the Discovery Institute, will walk us through the arguments in favor of Intelligent Design and why they believe the theory should also have a place in the science curricula of our schools.

**March 11-19, 2006 / 11th Annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival / Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI)**

Now in its eleventh year, the Festival has grown to become the largest and most important annual Jewish community event in the Northwest. Over 10,000 people will attend this year's Festival to be moved, informed and to laugh out loud at some of the finest films from around the world. We hope to see you there!

**March 31, 2006 / FilmTalks / Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI)**

FilmTalks is AJC's unique day-long program to bring high school students from local schools together for a day of dialogue on issues of pluralism, prejudice and mutual respect.

**April 10, 2006 / Luncheon Lecture Series: Being Muslim in America Today / 12 -1:30 pm / College Club**

**Jeff Siddiqui**, a local Muslim leader, will educate us about Islam in America and about the diverse Muslim community in Seattle.

**HOLD THE DATE! June 5, 2006 / Annual Meeting Commemorating AJC's Centennial and presentation of the Max H. Block Student Human Relations Awards / 7 - 9 pm / location to be determined**

**Call or email to learn more about any of these events at [seattle@ajc.org](mailto:seattle@ajc.org) or 206-622-6315 ext. 3**