



VISUAL ART



LITERATURE



VISUAL ART



FILM

Roe Green, Honorary Producer

FALL & WINTER
2026-27
SEASON



CLEVELAND-ISRAEL
ARTS CONNECTION

a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland



Fall & Winter 2026-27 Season

2026

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The artistic viewpoints reflected in these programs do not necessarily represent the positions or opinions of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.



For details, visit jewishcleveland.org

Dear Friends:

As we begin our new season at the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection, we are reminded that the arts continue to connect us in meaningful ways, transcending geography, generations, and perspectives. This season invites you to experience the creativity, innovation, and dialogue that define Israeli arts and culture.



Erica Hartman-Horvitz and Roe Green

We are continually grateful to our CIAC Patron Society donors and advisory committee whose leadership allows us to bring exceptional visual artists, musicians, authors, and filmmakers directly to audiences in Northeast Ohio. Because of your support, we can engage with global creative voices while ensuring that meaningful cultural experiences are accessible.

This season also marks an important milestone for the Roe Green Gallery. **Mutual Reality** featuring the work of **Ronen Sharabani**, is the Gallery's 25th exhibition. Curated by Matthew Garson, this exhibition defines the conceptual essence of the individual artworks and the power of visual storytelling. This outstanding exhibition is proof of the quality of the artworks and the commitment of our supporters and visitors to the Roe Green Gallery which has become a vibrant destination for the highest quality of contemporary Israeli art.

Adding to the excitement, we are delighted to welcome internationally acclaimed artist and illustrator **Hanoch Piven** to Cleveland this fall. Known for his imaginative portraits created from everyday objects, Piven challenges us to see the world from new perspectives. His visit and community engagement opportunities promise to be among the highlights of the season.

We are also proud to continue our support of Israeli cinema through valued partnerships with the **Chagrin Documentary Film Festival** and the **Mandel JCC Jewish FilmFest**. These collaborations bring compelling Israeli stories and diverse voices to local audiences, fostering conversation, understanding, and cultural connection through the power of film.

As you explore the programs in this brochure, we hope you find opportunities to learn, connect, and be inspired. Thank you for being part of our community and for supporting the arts as a powerful force for creativity, dialogue, and engagement.

We look forward to sharing this upcoming remarkable season with you.

Warm regards,

Roe Green *Erica Hartman-Horvitz*
Roe Green Erica Hartman-Horvitz

MUTUAL REALITY

Ronen Sharabani

Matthew Garson, Curator

Presented by the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection

August 16, 2026 – April 10, 2027

Roe Green Gallery

Jewish Federation of Cleveland

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building

25701 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Ronen Sharabani is an international, multidisciplinary artist working in a variety of mediums. His work is on the cutting edge of contemporary Israeli conceptual art. His art explores ritual, struggle and faith as well as cultural, economic and political values that he uses to provide viewers with intense visual and sensory experiences that harmoniously bridge spirituality and secularism. His videos and installations blend movement, performance, architecture and light into intensely visual and sensory probes.

"MUTUAL REALITY," explores the intersection where two realities or sets of rules contradict each other. He examines where one reality builds while the other collapses, highlighting the constant push and pull that is creating a distinct sense of boundaries or borders.

- To schedule group tours or individual visits, email israelarts@jewishcleveland.org or call 216-593-2890.



Virtual Territories #1, 2017



Presented by the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



Sponsored with support from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture



RONEN SHARABANI, ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

March 31 – April 5, 2027

Roe Green Gallery

Ronen Sharabani will join us for a week of artist talks, special lectures, curatorial meetings, and workshops. Please look for updates on opportunities to meet the artist.

ROE GREEN GALLERY OPEN HOUSES + SPECIAL EVENTS

- Free and open to the community, registration required.
- To register email israelarts@jewishcleveland.org.

LUNCH WITH THE CURATOR

Thursday, October 8, 2026 @ 12 – 1:30 pm

Roe Green Gallery

Join the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection to learn more about "Mutual Reality." This lunch is designed for individuals, educators, and community organizers who may wish to bring their community to view the current exhibition.

CURATOR TALKS

Sunday, November 22, 2026 @ 1 – 3 pm

Sunday, February 28, 2027 @ 1 – 3 pm

Roe Green Gallery

Join curator, **Matthew Garson**, as he discusses the techniques and themes behind "MUTUAL REALITY." Gain insight into Sharabani's themes of mobility and the anxiety of shifting ground and his use of sand as a medium that transcends fixed boundaries to reflect on themes of migration and identity.

PRESENTING ISRAEL:

Challenges Faced by Artists and Presenters

Monday, October 19, 2026 @ 6 – 7:30 pm

Roe Green Gallery

Together with the Federation's External Affairs Department, Cleveland Israel Arts Connection presents a panel discussion about the challenges facing Israeli artists and fine arts presenters. Panelists include an internationally-renowned musician and representatives from Cleveland's fine arts organizations.

BEYOND THE TOOL: TECHNOLOGY AS ARTISTIC MEDIUM

Movement, Memory, and the Evolution of an Artistic Practice

with Kasumi

Sunday, January 10, 2027 @ 1 – 3 pm

Roe Green Gallery

Kasumi is a multimedia artist whose work is driven by her interest in conceptualizing the movements, expressions, and gestures from which we construct our current reality. The staggering range of her methods and media is evidenced not just by her awards – including the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship – but also by the works themselves: from prints and collages to films and video art installations at the Rocket Arena at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall; performances with Grandmaster Flash; public art at The Cleveland Museum of Art; and interactive art-making apps for iPhone and Android.

Kasumi's extensive experience uniquely qualifies her to explore the influence of technology on contemporary art, including techniques employed by Ronen Sharabani.

Cleveland native **Matthew Garson** is a fine art advisor, curator, and interior design consultant with over 30 years of experience. In the 90's, he was a curator for Progressive Insurance Corporate Art Collection and in 2000, he established M%, a consulting firm specializing in collecting emerging contemporary artists. Matthew is currently Chair of the Visual Arts Sub-committee and the Volunteer Director of the Roe Green Gallery.

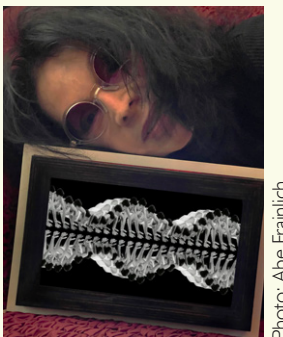


Photo: Abe Frajlich

HANOCH PIVEN Artist-In-Residence

Presented by @akiva for teens

October 10 – 15, 2026



Hanoch Piven is an award-winning illustrator, educator and seasoned creative instigator. Piven's artwork is unique in both form and method. By reinventing the meaning and use of everyday objects he forges associations between these and the subject of his creation. Piven's art is playful, inclusive and transformative. Since 1992, Piven's work has been published in newspapers and magazines across the world, such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Rolling Stone*, *London Times*, *Der Spiegel* and Israel's *Haaretz*. Piven is also the author of a series of award-winning children's books and apps, TV shows, interactive exhibitions and advertising campaigns.

Piven is a Seeds of Peace Fellow applying his art method to foster interchange and dialogue between Arabs and Jews.



HANOCH PIVEN'S COLLAGE WORKSHOPS open with him sharing his own story of a life in and out of Israel – from his *Aliyah* as a child from Uruguay, through his professional years in NYC, to his current work with Israeli educators – leading to the idea of collage as a metaphor for the way our identity is composed out of different places, influences and experiences. A hands-on creative activity follows.



@akiva is a division of the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland,
a proud beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



"WHAT AM I MADE OF?" – For Jewish Teens

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 @ 6 – 8 pm

Mandel Jewish Day School
26500 Shaker Blvd, Beachwood

This event is exclusively for Jewish Teens to explore their identity and the place of Israel in it.

- Registration is required at akivacleveland.org.
- For information, email tkeller@akivacleveland.org.

PIVEN AT THE PIVOT – Community Workshop

Hosted by The Cleveland Museum of Art Community Arts Center

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 @ 6 – 8 pm

Pivot Center for Art, Dance, and Expression
2937 West 25th St., Cleveland

Free and open to the community. Pre-registration is required.

- English - Español - עברית
- Recommended for adults and children over 12.
- Register at commartsinfo@clevelandart.com or call 216-707-2483.



The Day the Sky Hung Low

16 hrs. 36 min. and 60 sec. to midnight, 2021

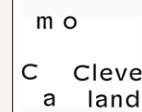


Exodus, EL05

creating an immersive environment that invites audiences to consider how geography, belief, politics, and memory shape both personal and collective understandings of place. At a moment when conversations surrounding borders, identity, displacement, and coexistence continue to shape public discourse globally, Littwitz's work offers opportunities for thoughtful engagement grounded in artistic inquiry rather than political polarization.

"The Day the Sky Hung Low" series uses radiation-sensitive photography to explore the artist's personal experience with breast cancer, examining the duality of radiation as both a cause of illness and a treatment. "Exodus" features botanical images that echo the geological phenomenon known as manganese flowers (Dendrites) – crystalline formations of manganese oxides that develop on rock surfaces. These works function as minute maps recorded and engraved within the material.

- For more information visit mocacleveland.org and jewishcleveland.org/israelarts.



MOLEDET: ELLA LITTWITZ

Presented in collaboration by moCa and the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection

April 2 – September 26, 2027

moCa Cleveland
11400 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland

Roe Green Gallery
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Building
25701 Science Park Drive, Beachwood



Photo: Eyal Tagar

Born in Tel Aviv in 1982, **Ella Littwitz** is internationally recognized for a research-driven artistic practice examining the political, ecological, emotional, and cultural complexities of land, borders, migration, and belonging. Drawing from archaeology, archives, cartography, geography, and material culture, her work investigates how histories and identities are constructed, mythologized, contested, and preserved.

Through poetic yet conceptually rigorous installations, Littwitz explores humanity's persistent attempts to impose order and sovereignty upon land and nature through borders, systems, and narrative control.



Sponsored with support from
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture

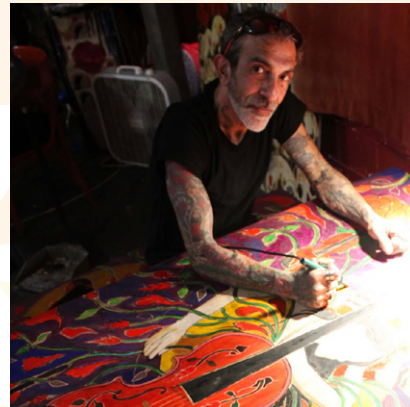
DÍA DE MUERTOS

*Presented by Cleveland Public Theatre &
Día de Muertos Ohio Artistic Director: Héctor Castellanos Lara
Featuring an altar by Gadi Zamir*

Saturday, November 7, 2026 @ 11 am – 10 pm
Cleveland Public Theatre Campus
6415 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland

Día de Muertos or Day the Dead, is a cultural tradition in Mexico and many Latin American countries to honor deceased loved ones. Día de Muertos altars are a vibrant, meaningful way to honor ancestors, celebrate life, and maintain cultural heritage.

Born and raised in Jerusalem, **Gadi Zamir** grew up creating art as an expression of his life experiences there. "I lost some really good friends in bus explosions, and with my dad in the army; I always had a fear that he would not come back." Gadi's imagery, often using skulls, birds, and angels, reflects his effort to balance fear with resilience, drawing on symbols of mortality, remembrance,



and spiritual protection. His work carries a mystical, kabbalistic dimension, inviting viewers to consider how loss and hope can coexist side by side.

In 2012, Zamir founded Negative Space Gallery and Studio located in Cleveland's "Asian Town Center."

- For more information, visit diademuertosoio.com.



Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.

FURNISHING AMERICAN SYNAGOGUES: Jewish Ceremonial Art

From the Jewish Museum, New York
*Ada de Wit, Ellen S. and Bruce V. Mavec Curator of Decorative Arts
Presented by the Cleveland Museum of Art*

November 1, 2026 – October 24, 2027
Cleveland Museum of Art
11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland

In recognition of the United States' 250th anniversary, these loans feature Jewish ritual objects used in synagogue and daily life in this country. The works range from a silver *Torah Crown* made in the early 1900s to contemporary, mixed-media artworks, such as an *Omer Calendar*, and an *Alms (donation) Container*. Together, they illustrate a wide range of styles, diverse sources of inspiration, and the evolving forms and functions of Jewish ritual objects in American life.

- For information, visit clevelandart.org/whats-on/exhibitions.



SARAFANS, SANDALS, AND SWIMSUITS: 80 Years of Israeli Fashion

*Einav Rabinovitch-Fox, Ph.D., Managing Editor,
Cleveland Museum of Art
Presented by Siegal Lifelong Learning at CWRU*

**Tuesdays, November 10 – December 15, 2026
@ 6 – 7:30 pm**

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive,
Beachwood

Explore the evolution of Israeli fashion, from the British Mandate period to the present day. We will discuss what defines Israeli fashion, examine iconic designs, and trace key milestones in the history of the local fashion industry.

- To register, visit case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, email lifelonglearning@case.edu.



THE REVOLUTIONARY ART OF YAACOV AGAM

*Carol Salus, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Art History,
Kent State University
Presented by Siegal Lifelong Learning at CWRU*

**Friday, December 4, 2026
@ 10 – 11:30 am**

Landmark Centre
25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

The Israeli artist **Yaacov Agam** redefined modern art by creating works that shift with light, perspective, and movement, making the viewer an essential participant in the artistic experience and becoming one of the world's leading pioneers of kinetic and optical art. Agam's visionary work reflects innovation, Jewish creativity, and global artistic influence.

- To register, visit case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, email lifelonglearning@case.edu.



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
The Laura & Alvin Siegal
Lifelong Learning Program



THE LIBRARY BY DAUGHTER AND FATHER: Avigail Schimmel's Photographs • Harold Schimmel's Poems

Presented by Foothill Galleries

December 10, 2026 – January 31, 2027
Foothill Galleries
2450 Fairmount Blvd, Suite M291, Cleveland Heights

This special exhibition of photographs and poems born out of the creative influence shared between a father and daughter, between the important American-born Israeli poet **Harold Schimmel** and his artist daughter, the photographer **Avigail Schimmel**.

The exhibition will include a selection of Avigail's photographs accompanied by the poems her father wrote based on these photographs (in Hebrew and his English translations).

- For information visit foothillgalleries.com or call 216-287-3064.



"RIMA: PASSAGES IN SEPHARDIC SCULPTURE"

*Curated by Sharon Toval
Presented by Congregation Mishkan Or Museum*

May 2 – October 2027

Congregation Mishkan Or
26000 Shaker Blvd, Beachwood

"Rima" brings the work of American Israeli sculptor **Rotem Tamir** to Congregation Mishkan Or Museum. Guest-curated by **Sharon Toval**, the exhibition draws on Tamir's family histories rooted in Jewish Libya and Iraq, exploring memory, migration, and belonging through sensuous, crafted objects. The exhibition is accompanied by an artist residency and public programming, including workshops, talks, and community conversations.

- For details, visit mishkanor.org, call 216-831-3233, email museum@mishkanor.org



Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



MANDEL JCC CLEVELAND JEWISH FILMFEST



October 8 – 18, 2026

Presented by the Mandel Jewish Community Center

The 20th annual Cleveland Jewish Film Festival will showcase a broad selection of feature, documentary, and short films with Jewish and Israeli themes.

- For complete schedule and tickets visit mandeljcc.org/filmfest.
- For more information call 216-593-6278 or email filmfest@mandeljcc.org.



*Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's
Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.*



*The Mandel JCC is a proud beneficiary agency of
the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.*



A LETTER TO DAVID – THE COMPLETE VERSION

A documentary by Tom Shoval

A cinematic letter to David Cunio, who was abducted from Nir Oz to Gaza on October 7th and released after 738 days in captivity, the film mines raw behind-the-scenes footage from Shoval's earlier, award-winning film *Youth* and present-day images to create a poetic essay about an unimaginable situation.



THE SEA

A film by Shai Carmeli-Pollak

When 12-year-old Khaled is turned back home at an Israeli checkpoint during a school trip he slips across the border alone, determined to reach the Mediterranean Sea even though he doesn't know the way and doesn't speak Hebrew. When his father, Ribhi, an undocumented laborer working in Israel, learns that his son is missing, he leaves his job in search for him—risking arrest and the loss of his job.

Earned 13 Israeli Academy Award nominations, winning Best Film



UNRAVELING UNRWA

A documentary by Duki Dror

The provocative exposé of how the agency founded as a temporary relief organization for Palestine refugees evolved into its central, and often controversial, role amidst the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the wake of October 7 and renewed allegations of staff complicit under Hamas influence, the 75-year evolution of UNRWA emerges as a case study in structural dysfunction and political chaos that have hardened hostilities across generations.

Winner of the Haifa International Film Festival Investigative Documentary Award

OTHER FILMS OF ISRAELI INTEREST



Checkout! – The Movie

A film by Kobi Havia

The beloved Israeli TV series hits the big screen! When a new owner announces a fierce competition with a huge cash prize, the dysfunctional crew of supermarket employees will do anything to win.



Heaven and Earth

A film by Ruby Doaniass

A suspenseful drama that follows Maya and Aviv, a couple who appear to have everything: a strong partnership, successful careers and a devoted young son. But when a routine test reveals a shocking truth that challenges their understanding of family and identity.



Hold On to Your Music: A Mother's Legacy

A documentary by Josh Aronson & Adam R. Wood

Lisa Jura is a young Jewish musical prodigy who escaped Nazi-occupied Vienna via the Kindertransport in 1938. A multi-generational narrative, recounted by Lisa's daughter, the acclaimed concert pianist Mona Golabek, explores her mother's journey of survival and artistry.



Love, Statistically Speaking

A film by Amichai Greenberg

When Reuben, an 80-year-old actuary who lives by statistics, loses both his wife and her insurance money at the swimming pool, he's forced into a reluctant partnership with his free-spirited granddaughter.



Where To?

A film by Assaf Machnes

Hassan, a 55-year-old Palestinian Uber driver in Berlin is estranged from his daughter and living without purpose. His routine shifts when he meets Amir, a 25-year-old Israeli tourist exploring his identity.

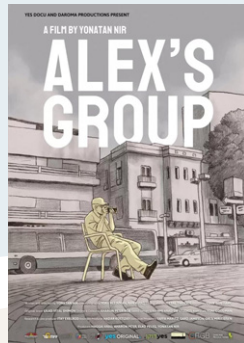
CHAGRIN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

October 6 – 11, 2026
Various Venues, Chagrin Falls

The 17th annual Documentary FilmFest will bring compelling films for six exciting days. Events include panel discussions and the opportunity to experience stories from around the world.

- For information, schedule, tickets, and passes visit chagrinfilmfest.org.

 Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.



ALEX'S GROUP

A documentary by Yonatan Nir

Sunday, October 11, 2026 @ 1 pm

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre
40 River Street, Chagrin Falls

Photography becomes a language of healing, memory and hope in this emotional film. Acclaimed photographer **Alex Levac** leads eight Israelis in a monthly, year-long therapeutic photography workshop, a cross section of Israeli society linked by the common thread of PTSD. As a former wounded combat soldier, director **Yonatan Nir** brings a deeply intimate perspective to the project, using documentary storytelling as a vehicle for healing, empathy, and post-traumatic growth.

Intended for release in fall 2023, the distribution of "Alex's Group" was delayed due to the events of October 7, 2023. The film makes its World Premiere at the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival



Filmmaker **Yonatan Nir** will give an in-person, post-screening talk.

OUT AT SIX

A documentary by Livi Kessel

Sunday, October 11, 2026 @ 2:45 pm

Chagrin Valley Little Theatre, Chagrin Falls



As a teen, director **Livi Kessel** was stuck in an abusive relationship that isolated her from everyone she loved, her fear swallowed any hope and thought of escape. This heartbreaking film pieces her story together through the confessions of friends and family, timelining the eight research-backed stages of abuse that have claimed hundreds of women's lives, and the film reveals how the real-time identification of abuse can save lives.

MAKING AWARENESS

A documentary short by Susan Wasserman

Wednesday, October 7, 2026 @ 1:30 pm

Methodist Church, Chagrin Falls

Saturday, October 10 @ 2 pm

Valley Arts Center, Chagrin Falls



Two Israeli street artists, **Dede Bandaïd** and **Nitzan Mintz**, spread awareness through their "Kidnapped from Israel" poster campaign on the streets of New York, calling for justice and to bring back the hostages of the October 7th attacks.

The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection is partnering with DocuNation to present a powerful virtual documentary film series to the CIAC community.

DOCUNATION: BEYOND THE HEADLINES

This season DocuNation features stories that go beyond the news and headlines to reveal the people, emotions, and human connections behind the events shaping our world.



THAT ORCHESTRA WITH THE BROKEN INSTRUMENTS

A film by Yuval Hameri

Available: January 14 – February 1, 2027

Filmmaker Zoom Conversation: Sunday, January 24 @ 1 pm ET

A broken string, fractured echo chamber, rusting valves. An orchestra of 100 Israelis and Palestinians, professional and amateur, young and old, prepares, against all odds, for a one-time-only concert in Jerusalem.



MUHI: GENERALLY TEMPORARY

A film by Rina Castelnovo-Hollander & Tamir Elterman

Available: February 11 – March 1, 2027

Filmmaker Zoom Conversation: Sunday, February 21 @ 1 pm ET

For the past seven years Muhi, a boy from Gaza has been living in an Israeli hospital, unable to return home. He is saved and raised in paradoxical circumstances that transcend identity, religion and the conflict that divides his world.



CHILDREN OF PEACE

A film by Maayan Schwartz

Available: March 11 – 29, 2027

Filmmaker Zoom Conversation: Sunday, March 21 @ 1 pm ET

Children who were brought up in a social experiment in the only community in the world where Palestinians and Israelis chose to live together in co-existence. "Oasis of Peace" is a dream that shattered into reality.

A live Zoom conversation with the filmmaker and DocuNation's **Yonatan Nir** will follow each week of screening.

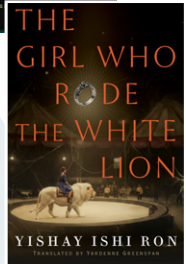
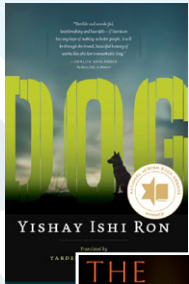
All films will have English subtitles, and the filmmaker conversation will be conducted in English.

- To register, visit docunation.org/ciac.



MANDEL JCC CONVERSATIONS

Presented by the Mandel Jewish Community Center



“DOG” and “THE GIRL WHO RODE THE WHITE LION”

by Yishay Ron and translated by Yardenne Greenspan

Monday, November 9, 2026 @ 11 am

Virtual

Yishay Ishi Ron is an Israeli author, the son of a Holocaust survivor, and a former soldier who lives with severe PTSD. His acclaimed novel “Dog” is a haunting and unflinching exploration of PTSD, addiction, and redemption. “The Girl Who Rode the White Lion” begins on the eve of war as Nazi violence engulfs Jewish homes and businesses. Young Sarah Frank is forced into a world suddenly stripped of safety and certainty, she finds refuge in a traveling circus.

Yardenne Greenspan is an Israeli writer and Hebrew translator. Her work has been featured in Tablet, Jewish Book Council, Literary Hub, and Haaretz.



This series, re-imagined for the 2026-27 year, brings some of today’s most compelling contemporary authors and speakers to Greater Cleveland, creating inspiring literary opportunities and sparking ideas.

- Please visit mandeljcc.org/Book-Festival for more information and tickets.

“AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL ANTISEMITISM: The Anti-Jewish Movement Tearing Through Our Universities

by Shai Davidai, Ph.D.

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 @ 7 pm

Mandel JCC

26001 South Woodland Rd, Beachwood

In the wake of the October 7, 2023, Hamas massacre, **Shai Davidai** became an accidental activist. Almost overnight, he was organizing rallies, appearing on prime-time television, testifying before Congress, facing death threats, and being barred from teaching his award-winning course.

Davidai was named one of The Jerusalem Post’s 50 Most Influential Jews of 2024, honored by the Israeli Parliament, and awarded The Jerusalem Prize at the Jerusalem Conference in New York City. His work has been featured in major media outlets, and he has appeared in multiple documentaries.



 Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation’s Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.

 The Mandel JCC is a proud beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.



American Roots: “RHAPSODY IN BLUE”: Jewish and Black Musical Traditions in American Music

Presented by CityMusic Cleveland

October 22 – 25, 2026

Various Venues

CityMusic explores the extraordinary artistic dialogue between Jewish immigrant composers and Black American musical traditions that gave rise to a uniquely American musical language. At its center is George Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” performed by **Yaron Kohlberg**, whose artistry and leadership have made him one of Northeast Ohio’s leading cultural ambassadors.

- For information, visit citymusiccleveland.org.

CITY
MUSIC
CLEVELAND
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA



 Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation’s Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.

LYSANDER PIANO TRIO

Presented by Cleveland Chamber Music Society

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Cultural Arts Center, Disciples Church of Christ
3663 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland Heights



Named after a character in Shakespeare’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, the Lysander Piano Trio was formed at The Juilliard School. In spring 2025, **Itamar Zorman** (violin) and Liza Stepanova (piano) were joined by cellist James Kim. A Tel Aviv native, Zorman was the winner of the 2011 Tchaikovsky International Violin Competition and a recipient of the 2014 Borletti-Buitoni Award and the 2013 Avery Fisher Career Grant.

- For information, visit clevelandchambermusic.org.



ELINOR RUFELZEN CONDUCTS SERENADES

Presented by CityMusic Cleveland

March 18 – 21, 2027

Various Venues

Born and raised in Israel, **Elinor Rufeizen** trained first as a pianist and later as a clarinetist, earning her bachelor’s degree in clarinet from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Rufeizen also holds a master’s degree in orchestral conducting from The Juilliard School.

A conductor recognized for her incisive musical clarity, rigorous interpretive approach, and charged performances, Rufeizen is equally at home in the concert hall and the opera pit. She is drawn to repertoire ranging from Brahms and Sibelius to Britten, Saariaho, and composers of the present day.

- For information, visit citymusiccleveland.org



CITY
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JERUSALEM QUARTET*Presented by Cleveland Chamber Music Society***Tuesday, April 13, 2027**Cultural Arts Center, Disciples Church of Christ
3663 Mayfield Rd, Cleveland Heights

The Jerusalem Quartet returns to the CCMS stage following its triumphant complete Shostakovich quartet series with another exciting program featuring works by Haydn, Prokofiev, and Brahms.

- For information, visit clevelandchambermusic.org.



 *Sponsored with support from the Jewish Federation's Cleveland Israel Arts Connection.*



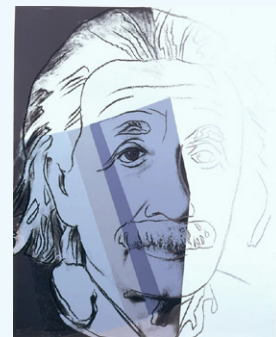
Photo: Daniel Wetzel

**THE MISHKAN OR MUSEUM PRESENTS**

For details, visit mishkanor.org, call 216-831-3233, email museum@mishkanor.org
Congregation Mishkan Or | 26000 Shaker Blvd, Beachwood

**ANDY WARHOL: Ten Portraits of Jews of the Twentieth Century**

thru – June 2027



Ten formidable portraits of ten formidable people: Andy Warhol's 1980 iconic series brings together some of the most influential Jewish figures of the last century, from Einstein to the Marx Brothers. These portraits invite us to reflect on identity, legacy, and cultural impact through Warhol's unmistakable pop art lens. The exhibition is accompanied by public

programming, including tours, workshops, and talks.

LITTLE HANDS, HOLY THINGS: Jewish Ritual Objects for Children

November 1, 2026 – March 2027

From delicate Torah binders to child-sized tefillin, this exhibition explores how Jewish tradition welcomed its youngest members. Drawn from Congregation Mishkan Or's collection,



these objects illuminate the rituals that marked a child's first steps toward participation in and celebration of Jewish life in different times and places. The exhibition is accompanied by public programming, including tours and lectures.

SIEGAL LIFELONG LEARNING PRESENTS

To register, visit case.edu/lifelonglearning, call 216-368-2091, or email lifelonglearning@case.edu.

**THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE THREE GREAT MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS**

Carol Salus, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Art History, Kent State University

Mondays, September 28 – November 2, 2026**@ 1 – 2:30 pm**

Landmark Centre

25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

The role of art in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam reveals much about the communities in which they were created and how they were perceived in their eras. Examination of houses of worship, paintings, and sculpture will be integral to class discussion.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICAN CLASSICAL MUSIC*Eric Kisch***Tuesdays, October 6 – November 3, 2026****@ 10 am – 12 pm**

Landmark Centre

25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

The artistry of Jewish immigrant composers, conductors, pianists, violinists, cellists, and vocalists helped shape the nation's musical landscape. Their enduring legacy continues to influence contemporary performers, composers, and audiences, leaving a profound mark on American cultural life.

BOOK DISCUSSION: "RETURNING: A Search for Home Across Three Centuries"

Ruth Silon, Professor Emerita, Cuyahoga County Community College

Thursday, October 29, 2026 @ 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Landmark Centre

25700 Science Park Drive, Beachwood

Nicholas Lemann, acclaimed journalist and former dean of the Columbia Journalism School, presents an intimate memoir tracing five generations of his German-Jewish family's history in America.

**THE JEWISH JESUS IN ART**

Linda Sandhaus, M.D., Docent, Cleveland Museum of Art

Thursdays, November 5 – 19, 2026**@ 1:30 – 3 pm**

Sessions 1 & 2: Landmark Centre

Session 3: Cleveland Museum of Art



Since the late 19th century, Jewish artists have portrayed Jesus as a Jew, challenging traditional Christian iconography. This course will explore how these artists emphasized Jesus's Jewish identity, the historical and cultural influences behind their work, and the responses of Jewish and Christian audiences.

SOUNDS OF A FRAGMENTED MEMORY:**The Music Repertoire of Italian Jews**

Lele Mancuso, Director of Jewish Studies Programme at Medici Archive Project, Florence, Italy

Wednesdays, January 20 – February 10, 2027**@ 10:30 am – 12 pm**

Virtual

From the ancient melodies of Torah cantillation to the influence of organ music, Italian opera, and the Jewish Reform movement, explore the rich and evolving tradition of Italian Jewish music.

ART AND IDENTITY:

Jona Ostiglio, the First Jewish Painter of Renaissance Italy

Lele Mancuso, Director of Jewish Studies Programme at Medici Archive Project, Florence, Italy

Wednesdays, March 24 – 31, 2027 @ 10:30 am – 12 pm

Virtual

Born in the Florence ghetto, Jona Ostiglio (c. 1638–1700), the first known Jewish painter in Italian and European art history received commissions from the Medici family and Florence's elite. We will also explore Jewish artistic patronage, art collecting within the Florentine ghetto, and Ostiglio's little-known workshop, where he trained the Jewish painter David Isaia Tedesco.





"BORIS LURIE: NOTHING TO DO BUT TO TRY"

Presented by The Maltz Museum

October 18, 2026 – January 27, 2027

2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood

This first-of-its-kind exhibition features the work of artist and Holocaust survivor **Boris Lurie**, including his "War Series" and personal artifacts. Together, they present a powerful visual testimony to survival, memory, and the enduring search for freedom. As one of the twentieth century's most uncompromising Jewish artists, Lurie's work continues to resonate in conversations about Holocaust remembrance, Jewish identity, and the role of art in bearing witness.



The Maltz Museum is a proud beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

Organized by The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust with the Boris Lurie Art Foundation.

- For information, visit maltzmuseum.org or call 216-593-0595.

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We regret the omission of any names.



CLEVELAND ISRAEL ARTS CONNECTION

The Cleveland Israel Arts Connection is a program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, connecting our community with the most dynamic 21st century cultural experiences that Israel has to offer. Working in partnership with Northeast Ohio's leading arts organizations, we strive to identify, enhance, promote, and create unique and engaging Israeli cultural opportunities.

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For more information, please reach out to Rebecca Sattin at 216- 593-2873 or rsattin@jewishcleveland.org.

Help keep our community safe, strong, and growing by supporting the Campaign for Jewish Needs.

Join the Cleveland Israel Arts Connection Patron Society and help ensure high-quality, thought-provoking, and emotional Israeli arts and culture continues in Cleveland.

Ensure creative Israel arts programming by responding with your own ideas and programs.



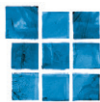
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