



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stroum Jewish Community Center Kicks Off 2017/18 Cultural Arts Season

SEATTLE, WA (September 6, 2017) – The Stroum Jewish Community Center kicks off its 2017/18 Cultural Arts season with an already sold-out evening with beloved, award-winning M*A*S*H actor, best-selling author, and science advocate **Alan Alda** talking about his new book, “If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?” and an edgy street art exhibit of prints from Artists 4 Israel—and that’s only the beginning of our remarkable and exciting third season!

In addition to Alan Alda, the J’s Words to the Wise spoken word series includes lively conversations with award-winning actors, authors, filmmakers, and academics, such as renowned character actor and radio podcast storyteller **Stephen Tobolowsky**, as well as Seattle journalist **Bonnie Rochman** on her new book, “The Gene Machine,” about genetics and parenting. In May, the series concludes with actor Gregory Peck’s daughter, **Cecilia Peck**, an Emmy-winning documentary filmmaker, discussing her father’s efforts to get his social justice work and the efforts he undertook to get his film about anti-Semitism, *GENTLEMAN’S AGREEMENT*, made.

The J’s Global Sound music series brings several Israeli artists to the J stage in celebration of Israel turning 70. The hip, young **Isramerica House Band** is headlining a new free family event, Sephardic Day at the J, on October 15, which celebrates our region’s unique cultural heritage of Jews of Spanish descent. Town Hall Seattle and UW Stroum Center for Jewish Studies co-present singer-songwriter **Yasmin Levy** in concert on November 11. One of Israel’s biggest bands, the funk/hip hop group **Hadag Nahash** performs on November 30, and **The Zu-Aretz Brothers** perform on February 17. The New York-based “super group” **Zion80** closes out the series with Afro-Cuban and Hasidic Jewish music fusion on June 3.

Our Fable to Table culinary arts series takes audiences’ taste buds around the world with notable chefs and cookbook authors. In October SJCC and Book Larder present James Beard Award-winning superstar chef **Yotam Ottolenghi** and pastry chef Helen Goh talk about their new baking book, “Sweet,” and our new Cook the Book cooking class series will feature Ottolenghi recipes from this and his other award-winning books in classes led by talented local chefs. A cooking class on **German-Jewish cuisine** and **Mediterranean-infused vegan meals** are taught by touring cookbook authors; and in the spring, hear from James Beard Award-winning New Orleans chef and rising star restaurateur **Alon Shaya**, who fuses Israeli and traditional creole dishes from the Bayou and just published his first cookbook.

As Mercer Island’s only movie theater, in addition to running the Seattle Jewish Film Festival (March 10-18, 2018), the J screens a variety of topical and engaging films throughout the year. Films include documentaries and extended dialogue forums about healing physical and emotional scars with tattoos (**FIGHTING FOR BEAUTY: HEALING INK**, September 10); childhood anxiety for parents, teens, and tweens (**ANGST: BREAKING THE STIGMA OF ANXIETY**, October 25); and hummus and its history (**HUMMUS! THE MOVIE**, November 9). Many screenings involve food, such as **Israeli TV Dinners**, featuring Israel’s hottest new, heart-pounding TV drama *FALSE FLAG* and a Middle Eastern dinner; and our December 25 **Kung Pao Xmas** returns for a second year serving up Chinese food and a movie (**NOODLE**) on Christmas Day.

Get a laugh at the J's Jest Fest comedy club with **Samson "Mahatma Moses" Koletkar**, the world's only Indian-Jewish stand-up comic (December 3) and the creators of the viral web series sitcom **YidLife Crisis** (May 5).

Our theater series focuses on storytelling— adaptations of historic memoirs and modern day radio podcasts. Hear tales of a Jewish pioneer, immigrant bride, and North Dakota homesteader with ties to Seattle in **Rachel Calof – A Memoir with Music**, co-presented by David Calof and Ahna Machan on November 5; and stories of Israel turning 70 on Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) with a live multimedia show from **Israel Story** (April 19), a co-production of Tablet Magazine and NPR PRX (Public Radio Exchange)

Also, of note: from September 7-15, the J is hosting an edgy exhibit of murals from **Artists 4 Israel**, an arts-based humanitarian organization and advocacy group that creates art on buildings in conflict-stricken Israeli communities. Prints of 30 of these stunning murals will be on display at the J, and the week will also include a variety of special events.

This is only a sample of the J's rich and robust 2017/2018 Cultural Arts season. All events are open to the public. See below for the full list. Interview and images available upon request.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.sjcc.org/cultural-arts.

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September

Talk: An Evening with Alan Alda (SOLD OUT)

Wednesday, September 6 | 7 pm

Art Exhibit: Artists 4 Israel

Thursday, September 7-Friday, September 15 | check the website for times

Free Film & Panel: FIGHTING FOR BEAUTY

Sunday, September 10 | 6 pm

October

Chef Talk: Chef Yotam Ottolenghi & Helen Goh

Co-presented by [Book Larder: a community cookbook store](#)

Thursday, October 5 | noon

Free Concert: Isramerica House Band

Sunday, October 15 | 1:30 pm

Cooking Class: German-Jewish Cooking

Wednesday, October 18 | 7 pm

Israeli TV Dinners: FALSE FLAG and Middle Eastern food

Saturday, October 21 | 6 pm

Film & Panel: ANGST: BREAKING THE STIGMA AROUND ANXIETY

Wednesday, October 25 | 7 pm

November

Theater: Rachel Calof—a Memoir with Music

Co-presented by David Calof and Ahna Machan

Sunday, November 5 | 2 pm

Film & Cooking Class: HUMMUS! THE MOVIE

Thursday, November 9

7 pm happy hour (cash bar) & cooking class | 8 pm film

Concert: Yasmin Levy

Co-presented by [Town Hall Seattle](#) and [UW Stroum Center for Jewish Studies](#)

Saturday, November 11

7 pm VIP reception and happy hour (cash bar) | 8 pm show

Cooking Class: Oy Vey Vegan

Sunday, November 19 | 2 pm

Concert: Hadag Nahash

Thursday, November 30

7:30 pm VIP reception and happy four (cash bar) | 8:30 pm show

December

Comedy: Samson “Mahatma Moses” Koletkar

Sunday, December 3

7 pm happy hour (cash bar) | 8 pm show

Kung Pao Xmas: Dinner & a Movie

Monday, December 25 | 4 pm

January

Talk: Stephen Tobolowsky’s “My Adventures with God”

Sunday, January 7 | 4 pm

Cooking Class: Sephardic Cookies

Sunday, January 21 | 2 pm

February

Talk: Author Bonnie Rochman’s “The Gene Machine” with Julie Metzger

Thursday, February 8 | 7:30 pm

Film: THE AGE OF LOVE

Sunday, February 11 | 2 pm

Concert: The Zu-Aretz Brothers

Saturday, February 17

6:30 pm happy hour (cash bar) | 7 pm show

Cooking Class: Cook the Book: Ottolenghi's "Sweet"

Wednesday, February 21 | 7 pm

March

23rd annual Seattle Jewish Film Festival

March 10 – 18, 2018

Free Talk: So You Want to Make a Documentary?

Thursday, March 22 | 7 pm

Chef Talk: Chef to Watch! Rising Star Alon Shaya

Date TBD

April

Radio Theater: Israel Story: Radio Road Show Celebrating Israel at 70

Thursday, April 19

6:30 pm happy hour (cash bar) | 7 pm show

May

Cook the Book: Ottolenghi's "Plenty"

Wednesday, May 2 | 7 pm

Comedy: YidLife Crisis! YidLive Comedy Show

Saturday, May 5

7:30 pm happy hour (cash bar) & DJ mixer | 8 pm show

Talk: GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT: Hollywood's Stand against Anti-Semitism

Cecelia Peck and historian Claudine Stevens

Sunday, May 20 | 4 pm

June

Concert: Zion80

Sunday, June 3

6:30 pm happy hour (cash bar) | 7:30 pm

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About the Stroum Jewish Community Center

The Stroum Jewish Community Center inspires connections to build community and ensure Jewish continuity. Together we create outstanding programs, partnerships and spaces that welcome everyone to learn, grow and celebrate Jewish life and culture. Learn more at www.sjcc.org.

About Seattle Jewish Film Festival

The Seattle Jewish Film Festival is a nine-day annual event and year-round international cinematic exploration and celebration of Jewish and Israeli life, culture, and history. Founded in 1995 by AJC Seattle, SJFF is now a program of the Stroum Jewish Community Center and a vital cornerstone of its Cultural Arts season and programming. Central to the J's community-building mission, SJFF brings people together to inspire learning and new perspectives by showcasing the virtuosity and diversity of Jewish cinema and talent. Learn more at www.seattlejewishfilmfestival.org.