



**JCC**  
OF GREATER  
NEW HAVEN

PRESENTS TO YOU THE

# BECKERMAN

## JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS SERIES



The 2022-2023 Beckerman Cultural Arts series kicks off on November 3 at 7:30 PM with an author program featuring Debra Green. This program will be offered both in person and simultaneously via Zoom. Debra's novel is an interesting, multi-generational story with a sub-plot of Jewish genetic disease. We are fortunate to offer a genetic counselor from JScreen who will participate in the program and will be available to answer questions from the audience.

The entire Beckerman Cultural Arts series consists of 11 films, 10 author talks and 5 topic discussions. The topic discussions will include the following:

- Israeli Prime Minister Rabin • Disabilities • Profiting from the Holocaust
- Personal Stories from the Holocaust • Israel

Tickets are available for purchase online. The ticket price for individual author programs is \$5 and individual film tickets are available for \$10. A series ticket that includes all films and author programs is available for \$90. The series ticket is a savings of up to \$70.

Currently two author programs are planned as hybrid programs; an option of either in person or online participation. The remaining 8 author talks will be offered online only. The films are available to be screened online only and are available 24/7 for a full specified 7 day period. Discussions (which are free of charge) will be provided to registrants via zoom.

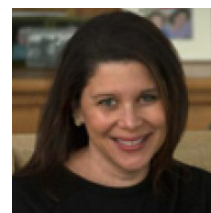
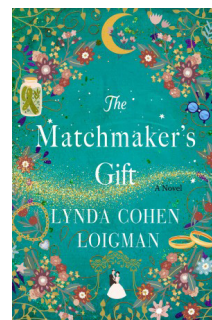
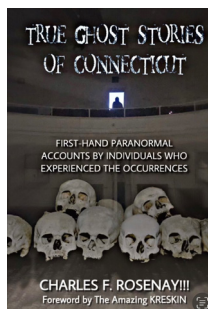
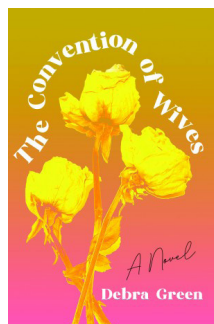
We are very excited about the 2022-2023 Beckerman Cultural Arts offerings and hope that you enjoy them.

Susan Skalka

NOTE: Additional programs will be added. Tickets for these programs will be outside of the series ticket.

November 3 | December 1 | January 19, '23

# AUTHORS



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## The Convention of Wives

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3 | 7:30 PM IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Author: Debra Green

Dina and Julia first meet at a surgical convention and bond over frustrations with their husbands' demanding schedules. But geography, time, and growing families make maintaining their friendship difficult and their relationship eventually falls apart. One of them is left to wonder why; the other has a secret. But neither of them knows that decisions made by family members decades earlier have set them on a collision course.

Years after their friendship ends, Julia gets word that her daughter has suddenly become seriously ill — and she and Dina must decide whether they can face the history that now unites them and muster the maturity to rescue their emotionally tattered families. A saga that follows generations from a shtetl in Odessa to the comforts of Scarsdale. The Convention of Wives is a story about the ever-evolving messiness of friendship and marriage, and the wonder of survival.

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## True Ghost Stories of Connecticut

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1 | 7 PM IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Author: Charles Rosenay!!!

Join Local community member, Charles Rosenay!!! for a fun and informative author presentation. Learn how Charles researched and selected stories for his new book: True Ghost Stories of Connecticut." Find out how Charles, a popular MC/DJ entertainer in the community for four decades, added writing books to his resume, where the ideas came from, and much more.

Are you also writing something about this other book? is it being discussed??

NOTE:  
THIS SELECTION  
IS NOT INCLUDED  
IN SERIES

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## The Matchmaker's Gift

THURSDAY JANUARY 19 | 7 PM VIA ZOOM

Author: Lynda Cohen Loigman

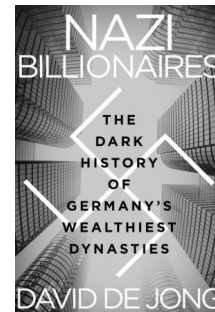
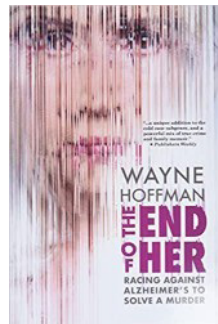
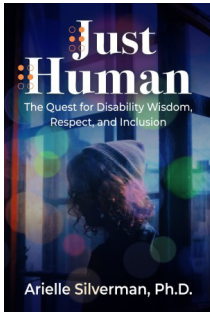
Is finding true love a calling or a curse? As a child in 1910, Sara Glikman knows her gift: she is a maker of matches. But Sara's vocation is dominated by devout older men — men who see a talented female matchmaker as a dangerous threat to their traditions and livelihood. In her will Sara bequeathed her journals, with all the details of her matches, to her granddaughter, Abby, a successful Manhattan divorce attorney. How much is she willing to sacrifice in order to keep her grandmother's mysterious promise to a stranger? And is there really such a thing as love at first sight?

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To purchase tickets, please visit  
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February 7 | February 23 | March 23, '23

# AUTHORS



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## Just Human

*Author: Arielle Silverman*

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 7 | 7 PM VIA ZOOM

Arielle is a disabled activist who is passionate about improving public understandings of life with disabilities. Born without sight, Dr. Arielle Silverman has never missed the visual. Being blind never bothered her much but, as she grew, she discovered others saw her blindness very differently. Many people saw her as either helpless or inspirational, but rarely did they see her as just human, with the same capacities and desires as her peers.

Arielle explores ways to foster respect and inclusion for all whose bodies or minds differ from the norm.

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## The End of Her

*Author: Wayne Hoffman*

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23 | 7 PM VIA ZOOM

Part memoir and part mystery is how to best describe Wayne Hoffman's book, *The End of Her: Racing Against Alzheimer's to Solve a Murder*. Hoffman recounts his quest to solve the murder of his great-grandmother, killed in her sleep in Winnipeg in 1913, and to share his findings with his mother before her mind is ravaged by Alzheimer's Disease. In the process, the author's search for truth explores issues of Jewish identity, the immigrant experience, familial obligation, love, and loss.

As *The End of Her* continues, Hoffman weaves chapters about his mother's decline and his family history into a single narrative. He unravels family mysteries and paints a vivid picture of life in Winnipeg's thriving Jewish community in the periods before and after World War One and the influenza outbreak of 1918. He also explores the relationship between the immigrant communities of Winnipeg and the distrust, antisemitism, and biases that persisted among the groups that settled in Canada.

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## Nazi Billionaires

*Author: David DeJong*

THURSDAY MARCH 23 | 7 PM VIA ZOOM

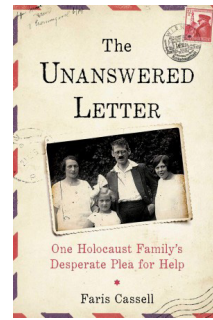
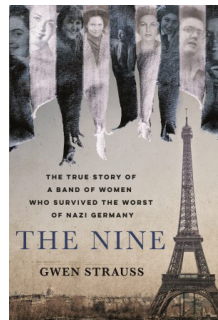
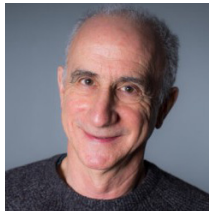
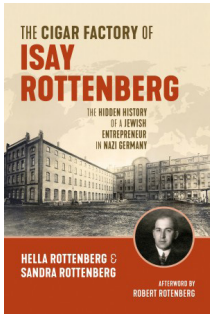
Succession meets the Third Reich in *Nazi Billionaires*. David de Jong reveals the true story of how Germany's wealthiest business dynasties amassed untold money and power by abetting the atrocities of the Third Reich – and how America allowed them to get away with it. The heirs of the Nazi billionaires have only grown wealthier in the generations since, while their reckoning with this dark past remains incomplete at best. *Nazi Billionaires* shows how German tycoons seized Jewish businesses, procured slave laborers, and ramped up weapons production to equip Hitler's army as Europe burned around them. De Jong also exposes how America's political expediency enabled these billionaires to get away with their crimes, covering up a bloodstain that defiles the German and global economies to this day.

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March 28 | April 16 | April 27, '23

# AUTHORS



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## The Cigar Factory of Isay Rottenberg

UESDAY MARCH 28 | 7 PM VIA ZOOM

*Author: Robert Rottenberg*

Isay Rottenberg was born in Russian Poland in 1889 and grew up in Lodz, moving to Amsterdam when he married. In 1932 he moved to Germany to take over a bankrupt cigar factory. The energetic and ambitious Rottenberg was certain he could bring it back to life, and with newly hired staff of 670 workers, the cigar factory was soon back in business. Six months later, Hitler came to power and the Nazi government forbade the use of machines in the cigar industry so that traditional hand-rollers could be re-employed. The factory was expropriated by the Deutsche Bank. The Cigar Factory of Isay Rottenberg is written by two of Rottenberg's granddaughters, who knew little of their grandfather's past until a call for claims for stolen or confiscated property started them on a journey of discovery.

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## The Nine

SUNDAY APRIL 16 | 10:30 AM VIA ZOOM

*Author: Gwen Strauss*

The Nine follows the true story of nine female resistance fighters as they escaped a German forced labor camp and made a ten-day journey across the front lines of WWII from Germany back to Paris.

The nine women were all under 30 when they joined the resistance. They smuggled arms, harbored parachuting spies, coordinated communications between regional sectors, trekked escape routes to Spain and hid Jewish children in scattered apartments. They were arrested by French police, interrogated and tortured by the Gestapo. After time in a series of French prisons they were deported to Germany. By the time they were enslaved at the labor camp in Leipzig, they were a close-knit group of friends. During the final days of the war, forced onto a death march, the nine chose their moment and made a daring escape. This is a moving tribute to the power of humanity and friendship in the darkest of times.

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## The Unanswered Letter

THURSDAY APRIL 27 | 7 PM VIA ZOOM

*Author: Faris Cassell*

In 2000, Faris Cassell's husband came home with a fifty-year-old letter that had been handed to him by a patient. It was a plea for help from a Jewish couple named Berger trying to escape Vienna in 1939 as the Nazis were approaching. They sent the letter in desperation to an unknown, unrelated family in America also named Berger. The plea went unanswered but the letter was saved, lying forgotten in a California attic.

After years of research Cassell located many living family members in the U.S. and around the world, and worked with them to construct a timeline with their saved letters. The letters detail the ways in which various parts of the family tried to leave their respective countries for safety elsewhere, and the ever-tightening restrictions on immigration they faced.

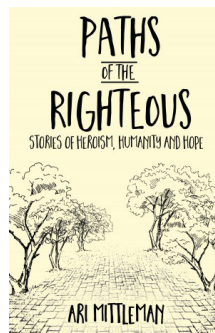
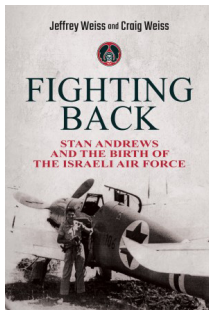
Cassell's vivid storytelling transports the reader through emotional highs and lows as the Berger family confronts dire situations at every turn.

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# FINAL 2: May 1 | May 16, 2023

## AUTHORS



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### The Fighting Back

*Author: Craig and Jeffrey Weiss*

**MONDAY MAY 1 | 7:30 PM** IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM

Fighting Back is about Stan Andrews, an assimilated American Jew and WW II veteran who, in 1948, became one of the first fighter pilots in the Israeli Air Force. The book follows Stan's short but dazzling life, including his transition from a brilliant student and talented artist into a daring bomber pilot in the Pacific during WWII, his post-war studies and romance in Los Angeles, and then his dramatic and unexpected decision to fight for a Jewish state. In Israel Stan served in the country's first fighter squadron, performed high level liaison work under an assumed name, and then served in a bomber squadron before disappearing in a dramatic bombing raid.

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### Paths of the Righteous: Stories of Heroism, Humanity and Hope

*Author: Ari Mittleman*

**TUESDAY MAY 16 | 10:30 AM** VIA ZOOM

What does it mean to be a righteous person in these uncertain times? When antisemitic violence has rocked the Jewish community, it's common to turn inward. Our Jewish heroes who give us hope and shine a light through dark times. Throughout history, Jewish leaders have shown our community and humanity what it means to rise to the occasion. But do you know the stories of non-Jewish luminaries that uplift our community while inspiring their own? In Paths of the Righteous, discover eight non-Jewish unheralded leaders who have gone above and beyond for Israel and the Jewish people in recent years. Black, White and Latino from Africa, Europe and North America, you will meet four men and four women you won't soon forget.

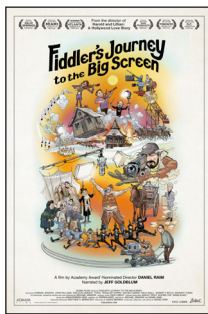
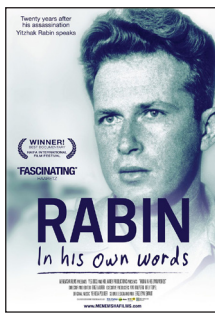
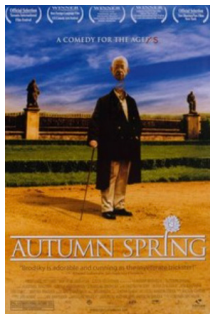
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# November, '22 through early February, '23

# MOVIES



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## Autumn Spring

**VIEWING DATES: NOVEMBER 21 – 27**

*Directed by Vladimír Michálek | Comedy | Czech Republic, 2020 | Czech, English Subtitles | 95 minutes*

Terminal prankster Frantisek Hána refuses to grow up and take certain responsibilities, despite his wife Emilie's constant badgering to do so. Even faced with his own looming death and an ungrateful son who wants to whisk his parents off to the old folks' home, Frantisek's wit won't quit as he vies to live until he dies.

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## Rabin: In His Own Words

**VIEWING DATES: DECEMBER 19 – 25**

*Directed by Erez Laufer | Documentary | Israel, 2016 | Hebrew, English Subtitles | 100 minutes*

Rabin: In His Own Words is told entirely in Rabin's own voice. Through a combination of rare archival footage, home movies and private letters, his personal and professional dramas unfold before the viewer's eyes - from his childhood as the son of a labor leader before the founding of the State of Israel, through a change of viewpoint that turned him from a farmer into an army man who stood at some of the most critical junctures in Israeli history, through his later years during which he served as Prime Minister and made moves that enraged a large portion of the public, until the horrific moment when his political career and life were suddenly brought to an end.

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## Fiddlers Journey to the Big Screen

**VIEWING DATES: JANUARY 9 – 15**

*Directed by Norman Jewison | Documentary | USA, 2022 | English | 88 minutes*

The fall of 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of Fiddler on the Roof, the film Pauline Kael (The New Yorker) called "the most powerful movie musical ever made." Narrated by Jeff Goldblum, FIDDLER'S JOURNEY TO THE BIG SCREEN captures the humor and drama of director Norman Jewison's quest to recreate the lost world of Jewish life in Tsarist Russia and re-envision the beloved stage hit as a wide-screen epic. The film includes behind-the-scenes footage and never-before-seen stills as well as original interviews with Jewison, Topol (Tevye), film critic Kenneth Turan, lyricist Sheldon Harnick, and actresses Rosalind Harris, Michele Marsh, and Neva Small (Tevye's daughters).

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## Oliver Sacks His Own Life

**VIEWING DATES: JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 5**

*Directed by Ric Burns | Documentary | USA, 2029 | English | 114 minutes*

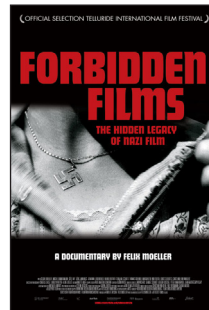
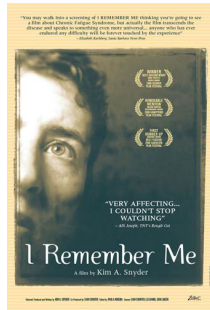
A month after receiving a fatal diagnosis in January 2015, Oliver Sacks sat down for a series of filmed interviews in his apartment in New York City. For eighty hours, surrounded by family, friends, and notebooks from six decades of thinking and writing about the brain, he talked about his life and work, his abiding sense of wonder at the natural world, and the place of human beings within it. Drawing on these deeply personal reflections, as well as nearly two dozen interviews with close friends, family members, colleagues and patients, and archival material from every point in his life, this film is the story of a beloved doctor and writer who redefined our understanding of the brain and mind.

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# Mid February through early April, 2023

## MOVIES



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### I Remember Me

**VIEWING DATES: FEBRUARY 13 – 19**

*Directed by Kim Snyder | Documentary | USA, 2000 | English | 74 minutes*

Filmmaker Kim Snyder has taken up the fight for the more than 800,000 people living with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) in the U.S. Investigating the baffling malady once maligned as “yuppie flu,” Snyder interweaves her own four-year battle with the disease with the stories of others facing the same challenges; soccer star Michelle Akers and legendary Hollywood director Blake Edwards (Breakfast at Tiffany’s, The Pink Panther) are among the participants. More than an account of an epidemic unfolding, I REMEMBER ME speaks to universal themes of loss, human perseverance and the difficulties in grappling with uncertainty.

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### Human Failure

**VIEWING DATES: FEBRUARY 27 – MARCH 6**

*Directed by Michael Verhoeven | Documentary | Germany, 2008 | German, English Subtitles | 91 minutes*

The so-called “Aryanization” in fascist Germany is without a doubt the biggest raids of the 20th century. Nonetheless, the issue is consistently hushed up. Because it was not the Gestapo, who broke into Jewish households to seize the possessions, but German financial officials. Larger valuables went to the authorities, the remainder was distributed in “auctions of non-Aryan possession” to the neighbors. Michael Verhoeven embarks his harrowing documentary in search of clues to the origins of the expropriation of the Jews in Germany.

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### Forbidden Films

**VIEWING DATES: MARCH 27 – APRIL 2**

*Directed by Felix Moeller | Documentary | Germany, 2014 | German, English Subtitles | 94 minutes*

1,200 feature films were made in Germany’s Third Reich. According to experts, some 100 of these were blatant Nazi propaganda. Nearly 70 years after the end of the Nazi regime, more than 40 of these films remain under lock and key. Director Felix Moeller interviews German film historians, archivists and filmgoers in an investigation of the power, and potential danger, of cinema when used for ideological purposes. Utilizing clips from the films and recorded discussions from public screenings (permitted in Germany in educational contexts) in Munich, Berlin, Paris and Jerusalem, Moeller shows how contentious these 70-year-old films remain, and how propaganda can retain its punch when presented to audiences susceptible to manipulation.

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### The Invisibles

**VIEWING DATES: APRIL 3 – 9**

*Directed by Claus Räfle | Drama | German, 2017 | German, English Subtitles | 110 minutes*

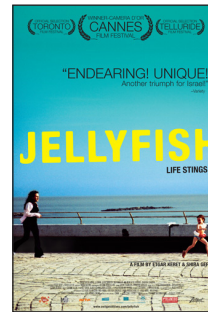
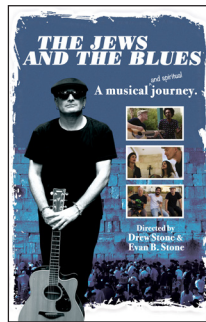
In June 1943, Germany infamously declared Berlin “judenfrei”—“free of Jews.” But there were still 7,000 Jews living in the Nazi capital: hiding in attics, basements, and warehouses, protected by courageous Berliners while desperately trying to avoid deportation. Only 1,700 lived to liberation. The Invisibles tells the stories of four survivors, interweaving their testimony with dramatizations. Cioma is an art student who uses his drafting skills to forge passports in exchange for food ration cards; Hanni dyes her hair blond to pass as Aryan; teenager Eugen is handed to a succession of sympathetic Communist families; and Ruth must resort to roaming the streets before being taken in by a surprising protector. The Keeper Directed by Marcus H. Rosenmüller

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# Mid April though May, 2023

## MOVIES



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### The Light of Hope

**VIEWING DATES: APRIL 17 – 23**

*Directed by Silvia Quer | Drama | Spain, 2018 | Spanish, Catalan, French (with English subtitles) | 96 minutes*

“When there is great suffering, you don’t ask questions. You help...”

Based on a true story of women who saved the lives of almost 600 infants in WW II.

In the early 1940’s, European refugees sought shelter in France to escape persecution from the Nazis and from Franco’s regime in Spain. These include countless women, some of them pregnant, and their little children. The camps are in horrendous shape offering no protection from the cold. An old villa was transformed into a birth clinic thereby saving the lives of mothers and children from certain death. The villa becomes a safe haven resounding with children’s laughter. Soon Authorities demand that she hand over all Jewish refugees.

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### Jews and the Blues

**VIEWING DATES: MAY 1 – 7**

*Directed by Drew Stone and Evan B. Stone | Documentary | USA, 2022 | English | 67 minutes*

The Jews and the Blues is a musical journey that along the way becomes something much more. My name is Drew Stone, I’m a documentary filmmaker, musician and talk show host born and raised in New York City. Join me as I follow my passion for music and adventure as I travel to Israel and discover how the blues ties into this incredible mix of cultures. Arab, Ethiopian, Moroccan, all Jewish, all Israeli, united through the universal tie that bids us together.... Music. Experience the sights, sounds and the unexpected on this expedition into uncharted territory. The Jews and The Blues : A musical AND spiritual Journey.

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### Jellyfish

**VIEWING DATES: MAY 15 – 21**

*Directed by Shira Geffen and Etgar Keret | Comedy | Israel, 2007 | Hebrew, English Subtitles | 78 minutes*

Poignant, often witty and exceedingly cinematic, JELLYFISH, tells the story of three very different Tel Aviv women whose intersecting stories weave a portrait of modern Israeli life. Batya, a catering waitress, takes in a child apparently abandoned at a local beach. Batya works at the wedding reception of Keren, a bride who breaks her leg escaping a locked toilet stall, ruining her chance at a dream honeymoon. And attending the event is Joy, a non-Hebrew-speaking domestic worker who has guiltily left her son behind in her native Philippines.

As this distaff trio separately wends their way through Israel’s most cosmopolitan city, they struggle with issues of communication, affection and destiny—but at times find uneasy refuge in its tranquil seas.

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