

# SPEAKERS AND FILMS AT THE CENTRAL QUEENS Y

Sunday & Monday afternoons and Thursday evenings  
Suggested donation, \$5 mem. / \$8 non-mem. except where noted

CENTRAL QUEENS Y  
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(718) 268-5011 x151 or pkurtz@cqy.org  
www.cqy.org



## THIS NARROW SPACE: A Doctor, His Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Patients, and a Hospital in Jerusalem

ELISHA WALDMAN

Monday, March 19, 1:30 p.m.

In 2007, Elisha Waldman, a New York oncologist, returned to Israel to work at Jerusalem's Hadassah Medical Center. In his memoir, he tells of the years he spent taking care of children—Israeli Jews, Muslims, and Christians, and Palestinian Arabs—with one devastating thing in common, cancer. Navigating Israeli bureaucracy, war, cultural clashes, and the religious restrictions of his patients that sometimes interfered with their care, Waldman learned to be content with small victories: a young patient whose disease went into remission and brokenhearted parents whose final hours with their child were made meaningful. He tells of the heartbreakingly brave and endearing children he cared for, children from Me'ah She'arim, Ramallah, and Gaza City.



## WHY? EXPLAINING THE HOLOCAUST

PROF. PETER HAYES

Monday, April 9, 1:30 p.m.



*Holocaust  
Memorial  
Day*

More than seventy years after World War II, some of the most basic questions about the Holocaust remain. Why were Jews the targets and Germans the aggressors? Why did violence escalate to mass murder, and why was extermination so swift and sweeping? Why didn't Jews fight back more often, and why was such limited help given from the outside? To fail to understand is to refuse the brutal lessons of that era—desperately needed in a world where persecution, inequality, and state-sponsored violence continue to destroy lives, families, and nations. Peter Hayes is Professor Emeritus at Northwestern University and chair of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Academic Committee.



## PRESIDENT TRUMP IN THE MIDDLE EAST

PROF. MARK ROSENBLUM

Monday, April 16, 1:30 p.m.

From his first international trip, beginning in Saudi Arabia, to recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, President Trump has shaken up American Middle East policy. The president's actions have helped Prime Minister Netanyahu mobilize right-wing support for annexation of large parts of the West Bank. In the meantime, Saudi Crown Prince bin Salman has emerged as a powerful regional leader, pushing a peace agreement with Israel. What are the implications of Trump's Mideast agenda? Vladimir Putin has become a third key figure in the Middle East. What is Putin's end game? Most important, is a democratic two-state solution still possible while maintaining a Jewish homeland? Mark Rosenblum is Director of the Ibrahim Student Leadership and Dialogue Middle East Program with Queens College.



## THE LAST TIME IT GOT THIS HOT ON EARTH: A Climate Scientist Looks Back and Then Forward to a Sustainable Future

PROF. STEPHEN PEKAR

*Earth Day  
Event*

Sunday, April 22, 3:00 p.m.

Carbon dioxide is rising at an unprecedented rate, chiefly due to fossil fuel use and clearing of forests. With greenhouse gases rising to levels not seen in tens of millions of years, understanding past eras helps us understand our future. A Professor of Environmental Science at Queens College, Dr. Pekar will talk about what the Earth's climate was like when the level of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide was as high as predicted for this century. Dr. Pekar's research has taken him on expeditions around the world, including Antarctica, to understand climate changes 16 to 45 million years ago and what that means for humanity's future. He will also discuss what we can do to create a more sustainable world.



## THE TRADE: My Journey into the Labyrinth of Political Kidnapping

JERE VAN DYK

Monday, April 23, 1:30 p.m.

In 2008, American journalist Jere Van Dyk was kidnapped by the Taliban in Pakistan and held for ransom for 45 days. Once released, Van Dyk was haunted by questions about why he had been taken, how he was released, and why his employers and government employees refused to give him a full account of what they knew. In his determination to understand what happened, in 2014 he returned to Pakistan and Afghanistan and met with some of the key leaders of jihadist groups and with the families of Americans held hostage. In his new memoir, Van Dyk reveals what he learned about what he calls the Trade, the lucrative international business of political kidnappings by terrorist groups.



## BAD RABBI: And Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press

EDDY PORTNOY

Monday, April 30, 1:30 p.m.

*Sholem  
Aleichem  
Day*

We are all familiar with stories of Jewish immigrants clambering up the ladder of social and economic mobility. But YIVO Exhibitions Director Eddy Portnoy has written an underground history of *downwardly* mobile Jews, exposing the seamy underbelly of pre-WWII New York and Warsaw. With true stories from the Yiddish press, Portnoy introduces us to Jewish drunks, thieves, murderers, wrestlers, and beauty queens. There's the Polish rabbi blackmailed by an American widow, mass brawls at weddings and funerals, and a psychic who specialized in locating missing husbands. His book is a paean to the bunglers, the blockheads, and the just plain weird—Jews who were flung from small, impoverished European shtetls into the urban shtetls of New York, where their bread landed butter side down in the dirt.



### THE PATRIOTS: The Story of American Emigrants to the Soviet Union in the 1930s

SANA KRASIKOV

Monday, May 7, 1:30 p.m.

Sana Krasikov's novel is based on the true story of a young Jewish woman who left the U.S. for the Soviet Union in 1934. Krasikov will talk about the phenomenon of American Jews who emigrated to Stalinist Russia in search of a utopian life and ultimately found themselves trapped in one of the most murderous and anti-Semitic periods of the Soviet regime. For many, the story included time served in Gulag for the parents and years in state orphanages for their children. How did these American Jews who had emigrated later see their own past choices? Sana Krasikov, who emigrated from the Soviet Union to NY, has received numerous awards for fiction, including the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature.



### MINI FESTIVAL OF AWARD-WINNING SHORT ISRAELI (& OTHER JEWISH) FILMS

Monday, June 4 & June 11, 1:00 p.m.



Don't miss our mini festival of outstanding short films, on two Mondays in June, that highlight different aspects of Israeli life. In one film, Israeli soldiers travel with a Palestinian prisoner, when their jeep breaks down in the desert. In another film, a waitress, closing up the restaurant for the evening to go to her birthday celebration, is detained by an encounter with a grieving customer and a young boy. In a third film, on the day of her sister's wedding, Zohara steals her sister's blessing, transforming the dynamic of the siblings' relationship. Each of our films tells a very full story, with a hint of how much lies beneath the surface, all within the limits of the art of the short film. Participants will vote for the Audience Favorite.

## INTERFAITH EVENTS



### INTERFAITH PASSOVER SEDER

Thursday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

At the Central Queens Y

Don't miss this very special event, which sold out last year! The Passover seder—a feast that combines symbolic foods, songs, and the telling of the story of the exodus of the Jews from Egypt—is a favorite holiday in many Jewish families, a celebration of freedom for all. Share the Passover seder customs and a kosher, vegetarian meal with your neighbors! We'll keep it short enough to leave plenty of time for discussion. Learn, or help us explain, the history behind this very special holiday. Come taste the bitter and the sweet (horseradish and haroset, a sweet relish) with us. Everyone is welcome! **\$21 in advance / \$25 at door. Advance registration strongly suggested.**



### INTERFAITH PANEL DISCUSSION: Women in Religion

Thursday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

At the Turkish Cultural Center

Join us for a panel discussion about the changing role of women in our religions within the context of modern culture. How has each of our religious traditions viewed women differently from men and how is that changing? Some religious denominations prescribe specific traditional roles and modest dress for women. What does modesty mean and is it a choice? Does having a different role make that role special or lesser? Our panel will include representatives from the Abrahamic faiths, and we'll leave time for questions and discussion. **FREE**

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Cultural Arts & Jewish Heritage Programs  
The Hevesi Speaker Series  
SPRING 2018



# CONVERSATIONS WITH AUTHORS & FILMMAKERS

CENTRAL QUEENS Y