

## Film Fest at 25 Years

**Soft opening Tues, May 14 - 93Queen**

As many of you know the Silver Anniversary Gala Opening of the Int'l Film Festival of Eastern CT is on **Sunday, May 19 at 2 PM at The Garde Arts Center** in New London and will include a concert, a feature film, a short, and a grand post movie reception. The admission for this special event is \$20. Tickets can be purchased in advance online via The Garde's website or in person at their box office. You can also purchase tickets the afternoon of the event. **Please refer to pages 3 and 16 to see a list of Film Festival sponsors** and a summary of films to be screened, venues, dates, times, and admission.

However, don't miss out on the first two movies that will be screened as part of the Festival's "soft opening." **93Queen** (USA, 90 minutes, 2018) begins the Festival's 3-week run on **Tuesday, May 14 at 7 PM at the B.P. Learned Mission**, 40 Shaw Street in New London. The Festival then moves to **Mystic Luxury**

**Cinemas on Thursday, May 16 at 7 PM to view THE CAKEMAKER** (Germany, Israel, English subtitles, 113 minutes, 2017). Admission to each of these two movies is \$10 per person per movie.

**93QUEEN** follows Rachel "Ruchie" Freier, a no-nonsense Hasidic lawyer and mother of six who is determined to shake up the "boys club" in her Hasidic community in Borough Park, Brooklyn, by creating Ezras Hashim, the first all-female ambulance corps in NYC. Through it all, we see Ruchie & Co. grappling to balance their faith with their nascent feminism, even as they are confronted by patriarchal attitudes that so dominate Hasidic society.

**THE CAKEMAKER** tells a story of Thomas, a young German baker, whom is having an affair with Oren, an Israeli married man who has frequent business trips in Berlin. When Oren unexpected-

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## Jewish Leader back online

Some exciting news to share with everyone - the Jewish Leader is once again being posted to the internet on the Jewish Federation's website - **JFEC.com**. You will find mid-way down the home page a link that will take you to the current edition of the Leader.

Of course, there is more than one way to find the Leader on the Federation website. On the left-hand side of the Home Page, there are oval tabs. Click on fifth tab down **JEWISH NEWS & EVENTS**. Roll the mouse over this tab and you will see the fourth sub-tab down says **JEWISH LEADER**. Click on that tab and the current edition of the Leader will appear. If you roll your mouse over the black frame that the paper sits in you will find that the paper can be enlarged, printed, and downloaded among other things. Scroll down a bit and you will find back issues of the Leader to the right. We are still in the process of adding back issues of the Leader so check back periodically and you will find more added.



### Community Holocaust observance

*Last Sunday, May 5, the Jewish Federation of Eastern CT and area synagogues conducted a community observance of the Holocaust that was attended by well over 100 people at the Zachs Hillel House on the campus of Connecticut College in New London. The guest speaker was Endre (Andy) Sarkany who survived the Budapest Ghetto during World War II as a child and also survived the Russian occupation before emigrating to the U.S. in 1956 where he went to college, worked in industry, and raised a family. Look for additional photos inside.*

## Fischer ends an era



leadership, JFEC has become a host of a community food bank and a member of the United Way, aided in resettlement of people displaced by disasters, began a Holocaust Resource Center, sponsored an annual International Film Fest now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, led many educational and interfaith missions to Israel, and developed a Senior lunch program in cooperation with TVCCA.

His work with the Jewish students at Connecticut College, Mitchell College, and the Coast Guard Academy, and their administrations, led to the establishment of strong Hillel programs on those campuses, and the construction of a Zachs Hillel House at Connecticut College, and the hiring of a full time Hillel Director.

JFEC runs "Encountering Survivors," a program in the public high schools offering students a chance to deepen their knowledge of the Holocaust by meeting with Survivors or Children of Survivors. One of those High

The Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut (JFEC) announces the retirement of its long-time Executive Director Jerry Fischer effective June 30, 2019.

Jerry has held the executive Director position since 1984 and over 35 years has grown JFEC from a limited role of charitable fund distribution to a strong, widely known program-driven presence in both the secular and Jewish communities.

He helped the JFEC resettle over 350 refugees from the former Soviet Union. Under Jerry's

**JERRY CONT. ON PG 13**

## Israel Marks 71<sup>st</sup> Memorial Day

*By Yaniv Kubovich, Haaretz*

In the year since last Memorial Day, 56 servicemen have joined the ranks of those who fell while serving in Israel's security forces, according to the numbers released by the Defense Ministry ahead of Memorial Day, which began Tuesday evening at 8 P.M. with a one-minute-long siren.

Furthermore, 40 wounded veterans died as a result of disabilities over the past year and were recognized as fallen soldiers.

According to the data released

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