



WESTCHESTER REFORM TEMPLE



The Private and Public Lives of Families in Israeli Cinema Today

with Miri Kubovy

Sundays, January 29, February 5 and 12 at 4:00 pm

This three-session series examines films depicting the lives of families from different backgrounds in Israel today, how they interact with each other, and the impact it has on their individual members, who within the family life, have their own identity, needs, agenda, and dreams.

Sessions 1 and 2: **A Touch Away (2007)**

Language: Hebrew, Russian with English and French Subtitles

The Israeli TV series that broke records with its rating when first Tel Aviv life and spins out a marvelous multi-family drama that will whose lives fatefully intersect in an apartment complex in the Or-a strictly religious (Haredi) family whose daughter Rochele a wealthy young bridegroom. But sparks fly when a newly arrived, thoroughly secular family from Russia--including vivacious actress Marina (the incomparable Evgenia Dodina) and her handsome eldest son Zorik--takes over a neighboring apartment. The forbidden love that soon buds between the two young neighbors, and the secrets that each family must hide, threatens the families' deeply rooted cultural assumptions and challenge individual family members' beliefs. *A Touch Away*, cleverly scripted and superbly acted and cast, never fails to entertain, but manages also to be a verse Israeli society.



aired in 2007! *A Touch Away* takes a slice of contemporary leave you wanting more. The series focuses on two families thodox neighborhood of Bnei Barak in Tel Aviv. The Bermans are (Gaya Traub) is about to enter into an arranged marriage with

realistic reflection of the ongoing social challenges facing today's increasingly di-

Session 3: **Aviva My Love (2006)**

Language: Hebrew. English subtitles.

Aviva, a hard-working hotel cook in the small fulfilling her lifelong dream. For years she kept Oded, an accomplished novelist. Immedi-her achieve greatness. But the journey to greatness affects her life and the lives of her family - her unemployed husband, her sullen and combative children, her unstable mother, and her sister, a funny and sensitive woman. Each member of this family has dreams of their own, that are not compatible with Aviva's, but Aviva's love to her family prevails.



northern Israeli town of Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee, is on the brink of finally her remarkable writing abilities under wraps, until her sister, Anita, introduces her to ately recognizing Aviva's talent, Oded takes her under his wing, promising to help

Miri Kubovy is a Harvard professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (retired), and an honorary professor at the Free University of Berlin. Currently she teaches Hebrew literature and cultural studies at the City University of New York, The New School University, Central Synagogue, and the JCC in Manhattan.