

# Lilith

Independent, Jewish & frankly feminist

## HAPPENING

FALL 2008



### "Mother Economy"

This film by Tel Aviv artist Maya Zack, born in 1976, is a meditation on Holocaust remembrance and an homage to resourceful women during violent periods of political upheaval. The protagonist might be a dedicated non-Jewish housekeeper who remained in the home long after the family's deportation and continued to perform rituals in their absence. Or, if she is the Jewish mother of the household, she survived because of her calculated efforts to distance herself from traumatic memories. [www.jewishmuseum.org/exhibitions/mayazack](http://www.jewishmuseum.org/exhibitions/mayazack)

### Israeli films & other Israeli films

Now showing in the U.S., at the 23rd (annual) Israel Film Festival: "Gole Sangam/The Stone Flower," (dir. Sarit Haymian) traces the lives of two elderly Jewish women who married as young teens and came to Israel from Iran 50 years ago. "Full of Life" (dir. Tamar Ben Baruch) is a short doc about 12-year-old Roni, sent by her mother to a weight-loss camp. The festival premiered in LA, and runs in New York October 29-November 13; in Miami, December 10-18. More films and info at [israelfilmfestival.com](http://israelfilmfestival.com) The Other Israel Film Festival showcases productions by or about Israeli Arabs. "Lady Kul El Arab," written and directed by Ibtisam Mara'ana, follows Angelina, the first Druze woman to break into the Israeli fashion world. "Desert Brides" (dir. Ada Ushpiz), focuses on a

Negev Bedouin wedding photographer who reveals, through her camera lens, the distressing phenomenon of polygamy. Both films are part of the second year of this unusual film fest, taking place

Nov 6-13 mostly at the JCC of Manhattan, [otherisraelfilmfestival.org](http://otherisraelfilmfestival.org)

### "Collaterally Damaged"

In an autobiographical play, author and performer Laura Zam travels to Eastern Europe, tracing her mother's real-life journey during the Holocaust. Her aim is a play that will end genocide, war, or even random acts of rudeness. "It's a comedy," states the playwright, who remembers hearing as a teenager, "What do you mean you can't clean your room? When I was your age I was sewing buttons on Nazi uniforms!" Zam, 44, has worked in the Czech Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina with teens brought together to promote post-war healing and with youth in the Middle East through Seeds for Peace. [Laurazam.com](http://Laurazam.com)

### A time for mourning and a time for dancing

The reasoning behind the tradition of women not attending funerals, by Zev Farber; an appreciation of *hebra kadisha* by Blu Greenberg; Syrian Jewish community mourning practices, by Linda Shamah; the death of the biblical Miriam by Erica Brown; are among the richly themed articles in the summer 2008 issue of JOFA Journal from the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, which will hold its 7th international conference in New York on Saturday night and Sunday, December 19-20. [jofa.org](http://jofa.org)

### Suite Française

You've heard about the manuscript—written in tiny, hurried handwriting for lack of time and paper before Irene Némirovsky was deported to Auschwitz in 1942. It contained the first two parts of her planned five-part novel. Six decades later, *Suite Française* won France's Renaudot Prize and has been a bestseller in its English translation, as well, at the same time generating controversy over the author's harsh and unsympathetic portrayal of Jews. (Némirovsky converted Catholicism in 1939.) Now you can see the manuscript in its entirety through an interactive computer program, plus other artifacts of the re-acclaimed author. On view from September 24, 2008 through mid-March 2009 at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in Manhattan [mhhnyc.org](http://mhhnyc.org)



Irene Némirovsky, 1938

### An Army of Women

Healthy women of all ages, ethnicities and levels of breast-cancer risk can be among those considered for research studies by scientists seeking to "crack the code" of breast cancer. This call for participation is a joint project of the Dr. Susan Love