



## Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center



### Reel World: Jewish Experience Around The Globe

Join the Charlotte Jewish Film Society as we journey through Jewish communities around the world, starting Thursday, October 28 at 7 PM in the Lerner Hall for Cultural Art.

We will kick off our series with the beautifully crafted movie, "The Name My Mother Gave Me," a film about growth and self discovery. In this film, we follow Ethiopian and Russian Israelis who meet at a leadership training program in Israel. Their year of learning culminates in a journey to

Ethiopia where the Ethiopian born participants return to their native villages and confront their roots. Though, back home in Israel, all the participants would consider themselves members of the fringes of Israeli society, in the highlands of the Ethiopian landscape they discover the universality of their experiences and their shared commitment to their new home in Israel.

During this time of year, Ethiopian Jews will flood Jerusalem by the thousands to

observe the holiday of Sigd. "Sigd" is an Amharic word for prostrating oneself, but it is also associated with the word "Mesjid," or temple.

When the Ethiopian Jews were living in Africa, Sigd was a day of fasting. During the day, they would form a procession and climb to the high point of a mountain, carrying the Ethiopian Torah, or the "Orit." There they would read portions from the Book of Nehemia and recite Psalms and prayers. This ceremony represented an acceptance of the Torah—the mountain represented Mount Sinai, where the Torah is traditionally believed to have been given by God to the Jewish people.

Upon descending the mountain, they would then break their fast amid music and dancing, with solemnity giving way to joy.

Today, the Sigd holiday as it is celebrated in Jerusalem has a different identity from that which was celebrated in Ethiopia. Now thousands of Ethiopian Jews gather in Jerusalem, the Holy City of Judaism. Ethiopian rabbis, who are called Kessim, wear ritual white garb as they lead the vast

procession to the Armon Hanetziv Promenade which overlooks the Old City and Temple Mount.

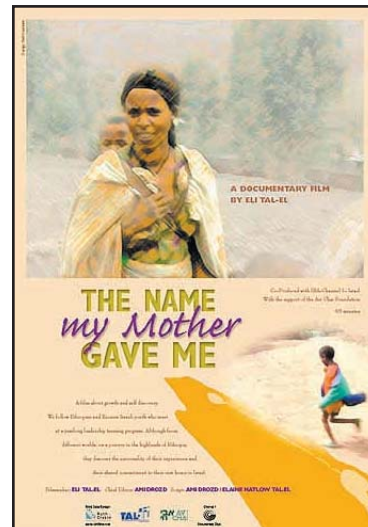
A ceremony which was once dedicated to acceptance of the Torah now has an added layer of meaning: it is also a celebration of the Holy City, and a prayer of longing for the return of the Holy Temple to Jerusalem.

This movie presentation is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte and the Partnership 2000 program, which builds living bridges between Charlotte and Hadera.

It is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Ethiopian community in Israel and the diversity of the Jewish people, enjoy discussion, good company and get a taste of Ethiopian cuisine.

Passes for all four films in this series are \$10 each. Single tickets can also be purchased for \$4 and are available at the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center.

Presented by the Charlotte Jewish Film Festival and the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center. ☆



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We acknowledge with gratitude the following donations to the Levine-Sklut Judaic Library and Resource Center. These donations allow us to expand the collection of books, DVDs, CDs, videos, maps, posters, games and various teaching aids. The entire community benefits from these thoughtful gifts.

**Friends of the Levine-Sklut JLRC Fund**  
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**"I lift my eyes to the mountains: Where does my help come from? My help comes from You, Near One, Maker of sky and land. You will not let my foot slip; You will not doze while watching over me."**

**-- Psalm 121:1-3**