

Saratoga Jewish Community Arts,
sponsored by the Jewish Federation of NENY, and Temple Sinai
Present
A panel discussion
of the film *1945*



After seven decades, Hungary is finally starting to come to terms with its WWII-era history through cinema. It certainly did not happen during the Communist regime. While there might have been an occasional film here and there, the reckoning started in earnest during the turn into the 21st century.

1945 presents a world that is trying to get back to normal even as it senses that normal will be harder to achieve than it hopes. The Holocaust only reached the small village of this film in 1944, a year before the end. All the local Jews had been deported, most of them taken to their deaths, and the remaining townspeople had simply taken all the Jews' belongings and property. The end of war has minimal impact on the villagers' day-to-day lives. The families now live in the houses of Jews – Jews who had been forcibly removed from their homes.

1945 is not about the atrocities of the war, but purely the exploration of national culpability: guilt for a nation that used its own military to wipe out local Jews as was the Nazi blueprint before them. It has something to say about the complicity of everyday people in the crimes of society, and says so in a relatively muted, methodical way.

Panel

Barry Bader is a retired healthcare governance consultant, speaker, and writer. He advised the governing boards of hospitals and health systems across the country on governance practices, mergers, and quality assurance. Barry earned a B.A. from Hofstra University on Long Island and a Masters in Communications from The American University in Washington, DC. He and his wife, Shelley, now divide their time

between homes in Scottsdale, Arizona and Saratoga Springs, and he volunteers with the historical museums in both cities.

Rabbi Linda Motzkin has served since 1986 as co-rabbi, with her husband Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein, of Temple Sinai in Saratoga Springs, New York. She is also the High Holy Day Chaplain at Skidmore College, a Judaic artist, parchment-maker, and one of very few women Torah scribes in the world, currently writing a Torah scroll as a long-term community educational project (www.BreadandTorah.org/community-torah-project). She is the daughter of a Polish Jewish immigrant, who was born in Warsaw and lost many family members during World War II. Linda and Rabbi Jonathan Rubenstein have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Art Ruben is a graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy and a retired engineer who has been a Temple Sinai congregant since 1984. He is currently a Trustee of Temple Sinai Board and chairs of the Cemetery Committee and the Avodah Committee. Art participated in the 2007 and 2014 Temple trips to Israel and Eastern Europe respectively. He has been happily married to Peggy for 46 years. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Upcoming Programs:

Panel Discussion: **Orchestra of Exiles**, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.

Panel Discussion: Spike Lee's **Do the Right Thing**, Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

Panel Discussion: **G.I. Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II**, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

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