

**Saratoga Jewish Community Arts,
sponsored by the Jewish Federation
of NENY, and Temple Sinai
Present
A panel discussion
of the film *13th***



13th is an award winning 2016 documentary by director Ava DuVernay. The film explores the confluence of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States. It is titled after the Thirteenth amendment to the US Constitution adopted in 1865, which abolished slavery throughout the states and ended involuntary servitude except as a punishment for conviction of a crime. DuVernay contends that slavery has been perpetuated since the end of the Civil War through criminalizing behavior and enabling police to arrest poor freedmen and force them to work for the state under convict leasing; suppression of African Americans by disenfranchisement, lynching, and Jim Crow; politicians declaring a war on drugs that weighs more heavily on minority communities, and, by the late 20th century, mass incarceration of people of color in the US.

This documentary provides an opportunity for meaningful conversation about things that matter. As Jews are challenged with expressions of anti-Semitism whether through word or violence, there are others, including a segment of Jews, who are challenged merely by the color of their skin as soon as they show their face. If you want to talk about things that matter with people that matter, then join the discussion!

Questions may revolve around: How and when did the 13th amendment become misappropriated? How did media and popular culture representations of Black Americans create a dangerous climate of racial fear and anxiety; Explain how the current crisis of mass incarceration may be considered as directly tied to the country's legacy of racism and history of slavery?

Panel for this evening includes:

Reverend Michael D. Bell, MDIV is a native of Buffalo, New York, who received his education in the Buffalo public schools. Rev. Bell is a graduate of Roberts Wesleyan College and Northeastern Seminary and holds several degrees including a Master of Divinity. Rev. Bell has pastored in Jamestown, Buffalo, Auburn, Ithaca, Elmira, and presently is in Saratoga Springs. As part of the leadership of the NYS Poor People's Campaign, he has successfully co-organized the Elmira/Eastern Region of the NYS Campaign. Rev. Bell organized a trade association for minority contractors in Rochester, led two redresses of the

Rochester City School District and Eastman Kodak minority employee abuse issue, while also working for one of the nation's largest financial services business for 30 years and 35 years total. As a pastor, community organizer, and activist, Rev. Bell was nominated to participate in Oxford University's Round Table, the Rhodes Scholar program in 2007. Presently, Rev. Bell sits on several boards, including the Harriet Tubman Home, Inc. Board, the Multicultural Board of Northeastern Seminary, the Saratoga Springs and NYS PPC, and several ministerial groups. Rev. Bell takes great pride as a family man and community advocate. Nothing else is more important.

Ken Evans directs Energy Finance strategy at the ReWire Group, LLC, a New York State Certified Minority-Owned Energy Advisory firm founded by the Evans family. His career has centered around the intersection of financial strategy and business development. Evans is now focused on renewable energy and quantifying how investment in energy technology can combat climate change. His foundation and training are rooted in investment banking and have included tenures at some of the world's most reputable firms including Deutsche Bank Securities and BlackRock Investment Management. Evans has been an active member of NYC volunteer organizations in addition to mentoring youth for business and management leadership. Evans holds a BA in Economics from Union College, with a focus on Econometrics. He currently resides in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Dr. Timothy L Harper has taught courses related to management and organization behavior, social identity, industry structure and innovation since arriving at Skidmore College. Dr. Harper currently serves as the Department Chair and an Associate Pastor in the Management and Business Department. His research interests include case teaching, leadership in sport management, and retail innovation. Dr. Harper's other bi-vocation role is service as the Pastor of the New Jerusalem Home of the Saved Church in Albany, NY since 2006. Dr. Harper is married to Min. Dr. Pamela J. (Malone) Harper. They are both tenured Professors, he at Skidmore College and she at Marist College. They have two children, Brianna, at Providence College and Timothy, a senior at CCHS in Troy, NY.

Mark Kehrer is a Lead Pastor at Pine Grove Community Church, Saratoga Springs, NY. Raised on a farm in Michigan, his parents taught him at an early age about responsibility and instilled Biblical morals. Kehrer started working at the age of 14 at the local ski hill and worked through high school, while keeping up his grades and participating in athletics and band. At 17, he joined the US Navy. Over the next 24 years, Kehrer served with distinction, reaching the rank of Master Chief. He met and married Jody in 1986 and they raised three children. Upon retiring from the Navy in 2006 after 24 years of service, Kehrer worked for seven years in the biotech/pharmaceutical industry as a Project Manager. In 2013, Kehrer was called into full-time ministry. As part of Revelation Church, he served as Executive Pastor in Connecticut and Campus Pastor in Saratoga Springs. In June 2019, Pine Grove Community Church was launched out of the Saratoga campus. As Lead Pastor, Kehrer has partnered with several social justice and support organizations in Saratoga and works with others in the faith community.

Song Lee (Marlee Song-Ford) is a Korean-American organizer, lawyer, educator, and movement builder, with over 10 years of experience in grassroots organizing and legal work mostly focused on ending criminalization in Black and Latino communities. Her commitment to human rights work with a focus on issues arose, in part, from a life deeply impacted by the consequences of unjust economic and racist

systems and institutions. Lee's past experiences include working with NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE FUND on petitions seeking habeas corpus relief for death row inmates, the JUVENILE JUSTICE PROJECT OF LOUISIANA, working on a lawsuit and community organizing effort that successfully sought to shut down abusive youth prisons and bring attention to the ways in which racism was the underlying cause of mass incarceration there, and throughout America, and NEW YORK CITY LEGAL AIDE, JUVENILE RIGHTS DIVISION, offering indigent defense representation to youth. As a Soros U.S. Justice Fellow, Lee co-founded, and subsequently led, BRONX PRYDE, POWERING RADICAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION, a youth leadership program focused on engaging youth in community building through grassroots organizing and legal advocacy. Lee previously taught International Human Rights at Champlain College. Currently, Lee parents two children in Burlington, Vermont, and is finishing an MS in Clinical Counseling, with a goal to bring understanding and practices of trauma-informed care to social justice work. Lee attended law school on a mission - to learn to use tools of the master to take apart the house. Currently, she seeks to learn tools of healing to support those working on a societal structural level for liberation.

Daniel A. Nathan is a Professor of American Studies at Skidmore College, where he holds the Douglas Family Chair in American Culture, History, and Literary and Interdisciplinary Studies. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of four books and has contributed to numerous journals and edited volumes. Nathan has served as the Film, Media, and Museum Reviews editor for the Journal of Sport History, is on several editorial boards, and is Past President of the North American Society for Sport History. Nathan is a graduate of Allegheny College and the University of Iowa.

Upcoming program:

Panel Discussion of *American Son*

August 16, 7pm

This 2019 film is an American drama film directed by Kenny Leon and starring Kerry Washington. It is based on a Broadway play of the same name. The story takes place in a Miami police station where a black mom is waiting for a report on the whereabouts of her missing son. Her estranged white husband shows up and the two continue to confront their tumultuous marriage. Their bi-racial son is the loser in the tensions of the couple's alienation, the police and community racial biases. Please join us for a sensitive and painful discussion of this reality.

Zoom information to follow.