

Beit Oleh America Netanya AACI

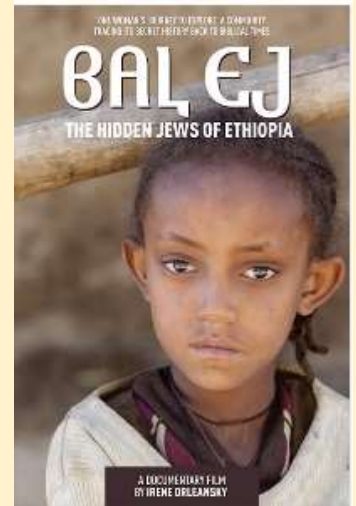
Bal Ej: The Hidden Jews of Ethiopia

Film Screening,
Q & A with Film Director

IRENE ORLANSKY

7.30pm Thursday 22 March

(Please note change of date from earlier announcement)



Following a hundred-year old account of the prominent Jewish Polish scholar Jacque Faitlovich, the film-maker travels to discover and explore a sect of secret Jews in Ethiopia. Named Bal Ej for their artisan skills, they are craftsmen who have been persecuted by their Orthodox Christian neighbors. Having been deprived of basic rights such as ownership of land, they have adopted crafts such as pottery, weaving and iron smithery in order to survive economically. Fearing persecutions, they appear Christians outwardly, and practise Judaism in strict secrecy. The synagogues are hidden deep in the mountains and have never before been visited by strangers. Some of their ancient traditions trace back to biblical times and have been completely forgotten by the rest of the world. The film *Bal Ej: the Hidden Jews of Ethiopia* lifts the curtains of hundreds of years, as the visit of the film-maker reveals the history, customs and culture of this remarkable community to the world.

The director, Irene Orlandsky, was born in Ukraine to a family of holocaust survivors from Poland and is an Israeli musician, producer, ethnographer and film-maker. In recent years she has devoted her work to exploring the culture, music and traditions of remote Jewish communities in Asia and Africa.

**Program takes place at Netanya AACI, 28 Shmuel Hanaziv, Netanya.
Members pre-paid NIS 40, Members at Door NIS 50, Non-members NIS 60**

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For further information and details about all our programs and activities please see our website:

www.netanyaaaci.org.il