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July 8, 2016

Israel Consul General to attend film screening at International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Organizers of this summer's conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies are thrilled to announce that Israel's consul general Ravit Baer will present the August 11 screening of the acclaimed Israeli movie "The Dove Flyer." The film will be shown as part of a Jewish film festival that has been curated for the conference by leading Jewish film scholar and teacher of cinema Dr. Eric Goldman.

The conference, expected to gather upwards of 1,000 family historians from around the world, will take place at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Seattle from August 7 to 12.

"The Dove Flyer," based on Eli Amir's blockbuster novel of the same name, brings to life the fragile, doomed world of the Baghdad Jewish community in 1950. Directed by Nissim Dayan, it recalls a lost and treasured time when almost 130,000 Jews lived in Iraq, speaking the nearly extinct language Judeo/Aramaic.

"Consul General Baer's attendance at the screening is special," notes film festival curator Goldman. "She brings a unique perspective for the audience with her experience and family background." Ms. Baer, a career diplomat in the Israeli foreign service, served in Europe and Africa before becoming Israel's Consul General to the Pacific Northwest.

"The Dove Flyer" is one of many films in the festival of 33 motion pictures that celebrate Sephardic Jewry, a major track of this summer's conference. Other highlights of the Seattle conference include the opening night keynote address by Dr. Devin Naar, chair of the University of Washington Sephardic Studies Program, and the banquet address by Legal Genealogist Judy Russell, a Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer. In addition, as at previous conferences, key lectures and presentations will be made available through LIVE! a real-time video streaming service after up to 90 days after the conference.

For more information, contact the conference co-chairs Janette Silverman, Phyllis Grossman, and Chuck Weinstein through the conference website www.iajgs2016.org.

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