

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 13, 2024

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**New 4K Remaster 25th Anniversary Theatrical Re-Release
Of the Award-Winning Documentary Feature**

"The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg"

**Marking 90th Anniversary of MLB Hall of Famer, Two-Time
MLB MVP, Four-Time World Series Player Hank Greenberg's
"Yom Kippur Stand"**

**At a Time When America Needed Heroes
A Jewish Slugger Stepped to the Plate**

**Special Celebration in Detroit Sept. 18th
Followed by National Theatrical Release Starting Fri, Sept. 20th
in Detroit Theaters and Then Expanding Nationwide
DC Tue, Sept. 24th; New York Screening at Paris Theater Sat, Oct. 6th**

Peabody Award winning and Emmy nominated Film from Legendary Documentary Director
Aviva Kempner, One of the Only Women Directors to Ever Direct Multiple Films that Have
Grossed Over \$1 Million at the Theatrical Box Office

A remarkable film on the extraordinary baseball player who transcended ethnic and
religious prejudice to become a hero for all Americans. Hank Greenberg's achievements
during the "Golden Age of Baseball" in the thirties and forties rivaled those of Babe Ruth
and Lou Gehrig.

As America's first Jewish baseball star, he helped break down the barriers of discrimination
in American sports and society. Greenberg was a beacon of hope to millions of American
Jews who faced bigotry during the Depression and World War II

The Ciesla Foundation is re-releasing "The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg" back into
theaters with an all new 4k remaster this fall in honor of the film's 25th anniversary and the
90th anniversary of Greenberg's decision to sit out a key pennant race game
to attend synagogue on Yom Kippur

[WATCH THE TRAILER NOW HERE](#)

Visit the film website at:

www.hankgreenbergfilm.com

WHEN AMERICA NEEDED HEROES, A JEWISH SLUGGER STEPPED TO THE PLATE.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HANK GREENBERG

25TH ANNIVERSARY
RE-RELEASE

AN AVIVA KEMPNER FILM



“HITS A HOME RUN!

**Riveting drama and poignant laughs!
Reminds us what it means to be a hero!”**

—ROBERT WILONSKY, DALLAS OBSERVER

THE CIESLA FOUNDATION PRESENTS **“THE LIFE AND TIMES OF HANK GREENBERG”**
SOUND EDITOR IRA SPIEGEL MUSIC SUPERVISOR DAN LIBERSTEIN PHOTO ANIMATION BERLE CHERNEY MUSIC DESIGNER HENRY SAPOZNIK
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANTS IRA BERKOW STEPHEN GREENBERG DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY JERRY FELDMAN KEVIN HEWITT
TOM HURWITZ TOM KAUFMAN CHRISTOPHER LI SCOTT MUMFORD ASSOCIATE PRODUCER ARI DANIEL PINCHOT
CO-EDITOR JUDITH SOBEL EDITOR MARIAN SEARS HUNTER WRITTEN, PRODUCED, AND DIRECTED BY AVIVA KEMPNER

WWW.HANKGREENBERGFILM.ORG

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DETROIT / NEW YORK – September 18, 2024 marks 90 years since Major League Baseball Hall of Famer and Detroit Tigers player Hank Greenberg took a stand as a Jew and did not play baseball on Yom Kippur, despite the Tigers being in the hunt for its first American League pennant in 25 years, but rather attended services at Congregation Shaarey Zedek in Detroit, Michigan.

Congregation Shaarey Zedek will host a special celebration on the anniversary of the day that Hank decided not to play in a crucial pennant race game to attend Shul on Yom Kippur. The event is hosted in partnership with Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation, Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, and The Ciesla Foundation.

Director Aviva Kempner, a former Detroit resident and writer, producer, and director of the award-winning documentary film “The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg,” and its 4K remaster and re-release 25 years later, will be a special guest for this exciting program that will focus on the life and legacy of slugger Greenberg. Kempner will be joined by baseball experts and people who personally knew the heroic Jewish baseball star.

Three days later, “The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg” will open theatrically on Friday, September 20th at Emagine Royal Oak in the Detroit area.

Following the Detroit release, the theatrical release will expand nationwide with a platform release in leading markets including New York, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and more throughout the Fall. Please see the addendum below with the current schedule of screenings and events.

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CELEBRATING
HANK GREENBERG'S
 LEGACY
 90 YEARS
 AFTER HIS
**YOM KIPPUR
 STAND**

**WEDNESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 18, 2024
 ZOOM**
 CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

September 18, 2024 marks 90 years since Detroit Tigers player Hank Greenberg took a stand as a Jew and did not play baseball on Yom Kippur, but rather attended services at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

Former Detroit Aviva Kempner – writer, producer, and director of the documentary film *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* and its re-release 25 years later – will be our special guest for this exciting program that will focus on the life and legacy of slugger Hank Greenberg. We will hear from baseball experts and people who personally knew our heroic Jewish Hall of Famer.

Cost: \$10 (refreshments included)

To register, scan the QR code or visit <https://shaareyzedek.com/event/celebrating-hank-greenbergs-legacy-90-years-after-his-yom-kippur-stand-zoom.html>
 For more information call the synagogue office (248) 357-6544

In partnership with Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation,
 Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, and The Ciesla Foundation.

MIKHAEL JEWISH SPORTS FOUNDATION JHSM CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

To register for the September 18th event Zoom (accessible outside of Detroit for those unable to attend in person), please visit:

<https://shaareyzedek.shulcloud.com/event/celebrating-hank-greenbergs-legacy-90-years-after-his-yom-kippur-stand-zoom.html>

September 24–26 the film will continue in Washington, DC at the Edlavitch DCJCC 1529 16th Street NW, and then onto the Avalon Theatre September 29.

October 8, 2024 at 7:30PM the film will be screened at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street in New York City and the continue October 18 New Plaza Cinema, 35 West 67th Street.

“The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg” debuted in movie theaters in 1999. It aired on HBO in 2001 as a release of HBO Documentary Films. At the time, filmmaker Aviva Kempner told *Variety* of the successful release and HBO acquisition, “It feels like I just won four World Series in a row, especially after struggling 13 years making a movie to honor my father’s hero.” Then-HBO executive Sheila Nevins said at the time, “It’s a wonderful, witty and poignant film and we look forward to its continued success.”

LEADING INDUSTRY AWARDS

- WINNER – Peabody Award (2001)
- WINNER – National Board of Review – "Best Documentary" (2000)
- NOMINEE – News & Documentary Emmy Awards – “Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft: Music and Sound”
- NOMINEE – Golden Trailer Awards – “Best Documentary” and “Best Trailer”

LEADING FILM CRITIC ORGANIZATION AWARDS

- WINNER – Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards – "Best Feature Documentary" (2001)
- WINNER – National Society of Film Critics Awards, USA – "Best Documentary" (2001)
- WINNER – New York Film Critics Circle Awards – "Best Non-Fiction Film" (2000)
- WINNER – Chicago Film Critics Association Awards – "Best Documentary" (tied with *The Filth and the Fury*) (2001)
- WINNER – Columbus International Film & Video Festival – "Silver Chris Award – Religion" (2001)
- WINNER – Florida Film Critics Circle Awards – "Best Documentary" (2001)
- WINNER – Kansas City Film Critics Circle Awards – "Best Documentary" (2001)
- WINNER – Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards – "Sierra Award for Best Documentary" (2001)
- NOMINEE – Los Angeles Film Critics Association - “Best Documentary/Non-Fiction Film”
- NOMINEE – Boston Society of Film Critics Awards - “Best DocumentaryPicture” (2000)
- NOMINEE – Online Film & Television Association - “Best DocumentaryPicture” (2001)
- NOMINEE – Awards Circuit Community Awards (1998)

LEADING FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS

- WINNER – Hamptons International Film Festival – "Audience Award for Most Popular Documentary (Aviva Kempner) tied with *Red, White & Yellow* (1998)
- WINNER – Washington Jewish Film Festival – Audience Award for Documentary (1999)

ABOUT DIRECTOR AVIVA KEMPNER

Washington, DC-based filmmaker Aviva Kempner has made award winning documentaries about underknown Jewish heroes for 44 years. Kempner just completed *A Pocketful of Miracles: A Tale of Two Siblings* (2023), which chronicles the heroism of the two Ciesla Foundation namesakes, Helen Ciesla Covensky and David Chase—siblings who survived the Holocaust separately and managed to reunite after the war. She co-directed, co-wrote and co-produced *Imagining the Indians: The Fight Against Native American Mascoting* (2022), a documentary on the movement to remove Native American names, logos, and mascots from the world of sports. Her *The Spy Behind Home Plate* (2019) is about baseball player and OSS spy Moe Berg. Kempner launched the *SEW: Sports Equality for Women* website which strived to amplify the stories and voices of women in sports.

Kempner made *Rosenwald* (2015), a documentary about how philanthropist Julius Rosenwald partnered with Booker T. Washington in establishing over 5,000 schools with African Americans in the Jim Crow South. She also made *Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg* (2009), about Gertrude Berg who created the first television sitcom. And she wrote and directed the short film *Today I Vote for My Joey* (2002), a tragic comedy about the 2000 Presidential Elections in Palm Beach County. Kempner directed the Peabody awarded *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* (1999), about the Hall Famer slugger who faced anti-Semitism during the 30s. It is being rereleased this September for its 25th anniversary. She also produced the award-winning *Partisans of Vilna* (1986), about Jews fighting the Nazis, whose entire interviews are being currently digitized by the USC Shoah Foundation.

She is presently finishing a film on famous screenwriter and journalist Ben Hecht, who as an activist exposed the horrors of the Holocaust to the American public and advocated to bring more Jews to US shores. Kempner is also making *Pissed Off*, a documentary short exploring the struggles faced by female lawmakers in Congress who advocated for *potty parity* in the United States Capitol.

Kempner's father was in the US Army military government in Berlin when he married Holocaust survivor Hanka Ciesla (Helen Covensky) and their daughter Aviva was born December 23, 1946. They also lived in Munich and then moved to Detroit in 1949. A member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, Kempner is a voting rights and statehood advocate for Washington, D.C. and proudly serves on the board of DC Vote. She writes for TheWRAP and other publications. She is on the advisory board of Israel's Baseball Team.

PRESS DOWNLOADS

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14j6zRNh3AEqqfX1n89d7FQKzyvEGArYC?usp=share_link

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/1002854048/b7f89741d2>

WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

www.hankgreenbergfilm.com

<https://www.facebook.com/cieslafilms>

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PRESS CONTACTS

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Fred Sternburg, Sternburg Communications, 303-548-0707 Toofred@aol.com

SCHEDULE OF THEATRICAL SCREENINGS & EVENTS

DETROIT

Emagine Royal Oak

200 N Main Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067

September 20-25

Showtimes & Special Q&A's

Director Aviva Kempner will introduce and participate in Q&A for the 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm screenings on Saturday, September 21th and the 12:00 pm screening on Sunday, September 22nd.

Friday, September 20 - 4PM

Saturday, September 21st - 4PM and 7PM (Aviva Q&A at both screenings)

Sunday, September 22nd: 12PM (Aviva Q&A) and 4PM

Monday, September 23rd - 4PM

Tuesday, September 24 - 4PM

Wednesday, September 25 - 4PM

To purchase tickets, visit:

<https://www.emagine-entertainment.com/movies/the-life-times-of-hank-greenberg-25th-anniversary/>

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WASHINGTON, DC

Edlavitch DCJCC

1529 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

September 24–26

To purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.edcjcc.org/jxj/show/the-life-and-times-of-hank-greenberg-4k-remaster/>

Showtimes & Special Q&A's

September 24, 2024 – 7:30 pm

Featuring a special Q&A with:

- Bruce Adams, MC - Founder of the Bethesda Community Base Ball Club that built Shirley Povich Field
- Peter Cottrell - President of the Washington chapter of SABR
- Matthew Frumin – Washington, DC (D-Ward 3) councilman who grew up a Tigers fan in Detroit
- Aviva Kempner - Director, producer and writer of Hank Greenberg film
- George Solomon - former sports editor of The Washington Post

Co-sponsored by DC chapter of SABR

September 25, 2024 – 7:30 pm

Featuring a special Q&A with:

- Grace Guggenheim, MC, filmmaker and line producer of Archival Restoration
- Ben Dally - Director of Film Development and Marketing, The Ciesla Foundation
- Aviva Kempner - Director, producer, writer of Hank Greenberg film
- Lauren Meschner – Colorist and post production manager at Henninger Media Services
- Zach Sinick - Music supervisor for the remastering version

Co-sponsored by Women in Film and Video and Henninger Media Services who will sponsor a reception

September 26, 2024 – 7:30 pm

Featuring a special Q&A with:

- Dan Raviv, MC, author and former CBS correspondent
- Aviva Kempner - Director, producer and writer of Hank Greenberg film
- Frank Foer - staff writer at The Atlantic and author of Jewish Jocks
- Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer - Professor at Princeton University, former U.S. ambassador to Egypt and Israel and first commissioner of the Israel Baseball League.

- Rep. Deborah Wasserman Schultz-(D-Florida) represents the 25th Congressional District and co-chairs the Congressional Caucus on Black-Jewish Relations
- Assaf Lowengart - Infielder with the minor league baseball team, New York Boulders, and a member of the Israeli baseball team

Avalon Theater

5612 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20015

Sunday, September 29 –10:30 am

Featuring a special Q&A with:

- Aviva Kempner, director, producer and writer
- Marian Sears Hunter, editor
- Ethlebert Miller, poet of the trilogy *If God Invented Baseball*, *When Your Wife Has Tommy John Surgery* and *How I Found Love Behind the Catcher's Mask*.

Co-sponsored by Women in Film and Video and SABR.

To purchase tickets, visit:

<https://prod5.agileticketing.net/websales/pages/info.aspx?evtinfo=422654~6c8c0697-5bfe-46a4-9ff7-3b01a44d6e6f&>

NEW YORK

Center for Jewish History

15 W 16th Street, New York, NY 10011

October 8, 2024 –7:30PM

- Aviva Kempner, Director, producer and writer of Hank Greenberg film
- Ira Berkow, Pulitzer Prize winning sports columnist for The New York Times and editor of *Hank Greenberg: The Story of My Life*
- Stephen Greenberg, Allen & Company, Managing Director, Former Deputy Commissioner, Major League Baseball, Jackie Robinson Foundation, Board of Directors and Son of Hall-of-Famer Hank Greenberg

Ticket Info: \$15 general; \$13 senior/student; \$12 CJH members; [click here](#) to purchase tickets <https://programs.cjh.org/tickets/hank-greenberg-2024-10-08>

New Plaza Cinema

35 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023

Opens October 18, 2024

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LOS ANGELES / SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Laemmle Theaters

Laemmle Monica Film Center (Santa Monica)

Laemmle NoHo 7 (North Hollywood)

Laemmle Town Center 5 (Encino)

Laemmle Glendale

2 nights each as part of Laemmle's Culture Vulture series:

October 21, 2024

October 22, 2024

Director Aviva Kempner in-person for screenings and Q&As along with Jewish and Israeli baseball figures from major league and minor league play.

To purchase tickets, please visit:

<https://www.laemmle.com/film/life-and-times-hank-greenberg>

ADDITIONAL CITIES

Additional screenings with director Aviva Kempner in-person will follow in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and South Florida. Please visit www.hankgreenbergfilm.com to keep abreast of the film's upcoming screenings and events.

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