

**Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center**  
*Cordially Invites You to the*  
*Long Island Premiere of the documentary film*

# REFUSENIK



**SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2009**

at

**Touro Law Center**

**FILM PREMIERE: 3:00 P.M.**

**Q & A WITH WRITER AND PRODUCER LAURA BIALIS: 5:00 P.M. (Refreshments Served)**

**Requested Donation: \$10.00**  
**Please RSVP to Aimee Pearlman**  
**(631) 761-7064 or [Apearlman@tourolaw.edu](mailto:Apearlman@tourolaw.edu)**

“...the film is informative and earnest in its recitation of history and its interviews with many of the people involved, its most compelling narrative comes from the evolving faces of the ‘refuseniks’ themselves.” – Desson Thomson, *The Washington Post*

“Laura Bialis’ powerful, stirring and comprehensive documentary “Refusenik” charts the long battle of Soviet Jews to win the right to leave their oppressive country.” – Sid Smith, *Chicago Tribune*

“Laura Bialis’s documentary, ‘Refusenik,’ released this month, is the first retrospective film chronicle of the 30-year international struggle to free Soviet Jewry. Based on extensive interviews with principals on both sides of the Iron Curtain, and bursting with rare and revealing archival footage of Soviet Jewish life, the film shows how a crusade that began with a handful of American college students grew into an international movement that successfully imposed a human rights agenda on American foreign policy toward the Soviet Union during the years of detente.” – Alexander Zaitchik, *Jewish Daily Forward*

“‘Refusenik,’ a new documentary on the Soviet Jewry movement, is engrossing; other new big-issue Jewish films miss the mark.” – George Robinson, *New York Jewish Week*



*The Refuseniks (from left to right) back: Vitaly Rubin, Vladimir Slepak, Lev Ovsisscher, Alexander Druk, Yossi Beilin, Dina Beilin front: Natan Sharansky, Ida Nudel, Alexander Lerner*

## ABOUT THE FILM

REFUSENIK is the first retrospective film to chronicle the 30-year international movement to free Soviet Jews. What started as a small grassroots movement bold enough to take on a Cold War superpower blossomed into an international human rights crusade that engaged the disempowered and world leaders alike. Told through the eyes of activists on both sides of the Iron Curtain – many of whom survived punishment in Soviet Gulag labor camps – the film is a tapestry of first-person accounts of heroism, sacrifice, and ultimately, liberation.



*Activists in Los Angeles march for Soviet Jewry at a 1969 Simchat Torah rally*

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

An avid historian and film buff, Laura Bialis founded the Foundation for Documentary Projects as a way to fuse her love of history and interest in human rights with her passion for filmmaking. An award-winning documentary filmmaker, her work as producer and director has ranged from documentaries about human rights, poverty, and wartime memories, to commercial projects for clients such as TV Guide Channel and Universal Television. Much of her work has focused on stories of the Jewish people. Laura produced and directed REFUSENIK, a critically-acclaimed documentary about the 30-year international human rights campaign to free Soviet Jewry. The film was theatrically released in cities across the United States in spring/summer 2008 and is headed for international television broadcast.



*Soviet Jewry activists (including Zev Yaroslavsky and Si Frumkin) in Los Angeles*



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