

# Learn How an American Pilot Helped Israel Start its Air Force at Film Screening in Manahawkin

See 'A Wing and a Prayer' on July 12 at Stockton's Instructional Site

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**Galloway, N.J.** - The little-known story of how American pilot Al Schwimmer led a secret, illegal operation to give the newborn Jewish state a chance to survive is told in "A Wing and a Prayer," a film to be screened at Stockton University's Manahawkin Instructional Site on **Tuesday, July 12**.

The 2015 PBS documentary by Boaz Dvir shows how Schwimmer helped establish the Israel Air Force by covertly bringing aircrafts and guns to the nascent nation. Schwimmer worked for TWA and assisted the Air Transport Command in World War II. He used his many military and airplane industry contacts to help him transport the planes. He also created false companies to get around the United States' prohibition against sending military aid to Israel to avoid antagonizing Arab countries during the Cold War.

Schwimmer, who later founded Israel Aircraft Industries, died in 2011. He was pardoned by outgoing President Bill Clinton in 2001 in relation to his