

**June 16, 2006**

## **A Jewish heroine**

**Marta Kauffman**, famous as the co-creator of “Friends,” is co-producing “Blessed is the Match: The Life and Death of **Hannah Senesh**.” This feature documentary is about the famous Jewish poet and diarist who left pre-state Israel and parachuted into Hungary during World War II to try and rescue Jews, including her mother, from the Holocaust. Senesh, who is a national heroine in Israel, was captured, tortured and executed. Joining Kauffman as producers of “Blessed” are director **Roberta Grossman** and the Katahdin Foundation, which is based in Berkeley.

“I strongly believe that Holocaust stories must continue to be told, especially now, when survivors are in their 80s and 90s and still able to provide first-hand accounts,” says Kauffman, who is a volunteer for many Jewish causes. “The story of Hannah Senesh captivated me not only because of Hannah’s courage, but also because, at its core, it is an intense and moving mother-daughter story.”

The filmmakers have been granted unprecedented access to the Senesh family archives and they will film in Israel and Hungary this fall. They plan to release the documentary to theaters in 2007 and have it broadcast on public television in early 2008.