



**Arthur M. Feldman Judaica Gallery**  
465 Roger Williams Avenue  
Highland Park, IL 60035

Opening Reception:  
Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
5:00-7:00 pm

The exhibit continues through the  
end of December 2016.

Gallery hours: Monday Closed. Tuesday through Thursday, 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm; Friday, 12pm to 3pm; Saturday & Sunday, by Appointment ONLY.

For more information please contact **Arthur Feldman Gallery** at (847) 748-8123.

**The Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum** is a unique collection of Jewish art, artifacts and ritual objects. In addition to preserving significant objects for posterity, the museum seeks to develop programs and exhibitions that are designed to educate the congregation and promote an appreciation for works of Judaica.

*North Suburban  
Synagogue*  
**Beth El**  
בית כנסת בית אל

1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park 60035



## Landscape as Metaphor

Exhibition of Art by Participants in the  
Summer 2016 Artists Beit Midrash

Curated by Judith Joseph

**November – December 2016**

**Sylvia Alotta • Lois Baer Barr • Sylvia Dresser**  
**Philip Feitelberg • Sharone Goodman**  
**Brenda Jackson • Judith Joseph • Marla Snyder**  
**Judy Solomon • Sandy Starkman**  
**Phyllis Woloshin**

## Landscape as Metaphor

The art in this exhibit resulted from an Artists Beit Midrash, a course of text study and art discussion at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, with support from the Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education program. The class was co-taught by **Judith Joseph** and **Jane Shapiro**. Judith, artist/art-educator, is on the faculty of the Chicago Botanic Garden and The Art Center, Highland Park, where she teaches painting and calligraphy. She is a member of the Midwest Jewish Artists Lab at Spertus Institute and organizes the adult study program at Congregation Hakafa. Jane is a local Jewish educator. She is co-founder/teacher at the Orot Center for New Jewish Learning in Wilmette.

Using sacred text study as a stepping-off point, the Beit Midrash participants studied ideas about landscape in the Bible, and viewed and discussed work by contemporary artists who explore similar concepts. They then went on to create their own works, inspired by and in response to the course discussions. The result is an exhibit in which eleven artists express their connection with Judaism through paintings, drawings, ceramic sculpture, fiber art, photography, and poetry.

## Sandy Starkman

### Postcards of the Landscape of Torah through the Eyes of Bnai Yisrael - The Children of Israel

#### Photographs



Photos taken by Sandy in Israel and Kiev, Ukraine, illustrate many of the texts and ideas we studied this summer: mountains, wells and water, sky, heavens and space; deserts; rivers and water; and forests. This project was inspired by study with Jane Shapiro and Judith Joseph during the summer of 2016.

**Sandy Starkman** of Highland Park does not consider herself an artist, but she thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Artists Beit Midrash the past two years at NSS Beth El. Her first quilt was published in the 2009-2010 edition of East on Central Journal of Arts and Letters.

## Phyllis Woloshin

### Bee Eater

#### Needle felting



After my daughter sent me a pad of paper decorated with a bunch of birds with wonderful headdresses on them, I was inspired to create felted birds. Birds reflect landscapes in their habitation and their nutrition. I think that sometimes there has to be a place for whimsy so that we can offset the heaviness of the *"birds of prey" of the Bible and of life*. An interesting note is that my Yiddish name is Faigel (bird)!

**Phyllis Woloshin** spent the past thirty years as a Philosophy professor and enjoys creating art in various forms including felting and jewelry.

## Sylvia Alotta

### Creation Gives



**Creation Gives** is a series of four tzedekah handcrafted book boxes on the theme of Landscape. Featuring round back leather spines, the quarter sawn oak wood covers depict Desert, Fields, Water and the Heavenly Expanse. The Psalmist writes that nature, just like the act of giving tzedekah "proclaims the works of his hands."

**Sylvia Ramos Alotta** began a lifelong interest in hand bookbinding after she was awarded a U.S. Design Patent for a unique journal system in 1995. Her graduate school sketchbook on various bookbinding structures was published as *The Exquisite Notes*. Her work can be found in publications as well as private and public collections. She holds a BFA from the Cleveland Institute of Art and MFA from Columbia College Chicago. She is a Spertus fellow of the Midwest Jewish Artists Lab.

## Lois Baer Barr

### Landmarks on the Erie Canal Trailway

Poem, collage and acrylics



The poem was inspired by our bicycle trip and the *contrast between the landscape's great beauty and devastation, reminiscent of the blessings and curses in Isaiah and Deuteronomy.*

**Lois Baer Barr** is an emerita professor of Spanish and a literacy tutor. Her poetry, fiction, memoir and critical essays in Spanish and English have appeared here and abroad, and her chapbook won Poetica's 2013 Chapbook Contest. With her husband Lew, she recently biked 1282 miles from Riverwoods, Illinois to New York City. They got lost a lot.

### Landmarks on the Erie Canal

We park our bikes at Schoharie Creek where freed slaves dug "Clinton's Ditch," waist deep in mud. Irish immigrants earned fifty cents a day and jiggers of whiskey. Six men, a team of horses, and a stump puller could fell forty trees per day. Stones were plowed. Lakes, creeks and rivers got linked to canals ten feet wide and four feet deep.

When it opened, cannons placed eighty miles apart shot off in succession. Governor Clinton poured water from Lake Erie into the Hudson River. Beside the canal ran a towpath where mule teams pulled corn and hogs from Indiana, wheat from Ohio. Silver backed mirrors, varnished maple chests went west. Lockport, Brockport, and Spencerport flourished. The first Book of Mormon was printed in Palmyra. Broad­sides with words like abolition, temperance, women's suffrage traveled from Troy to Buffalo.

## Judy Solomon

### Out of the Kinneret: Thoughts on Clay and Water

Mixed media: box, cloth, ceramic bowls



*Reflecting on Lois Baer Barr's poem "Kinneret Sheli," I wish to add to the conversation about time, memory and place with my offering of hand-built ceramic plates. They are decorated with abstract, calligraphic thoughts and feelings and placed in a container with "flowing water."*

### Conversations with my Father: Show Off Your Best Side

Stoneware ceramic with two natural shells



From a series inspired by the beauty of the shells collected by my father for decades. Time, distance, memory...and things unsaid. I am constantly reminding myself that I have now reached a *"venerable" age and feel that I am finally an equal with my father. I can explore what I could share with him about his art collecting. I now have the voice to engage in dialogue with him, which was not the case during his life.*

**Judy Solomon** is a retired art teacher. She is now concentrating on the study of ceramics. The Artists Beit Midrash sessions these past three summers have given her the key first to understand and then to explore what it means to be a contemporary artist.

## Sea of Galilee

Earthquake's daughter, ancestral womb,  
in Aramaic, Hebrew,  
Greek and Arabic,  
your names sing out to me.

A bed of salt below your waters,  
volcanic rock piles,  
monument in basalt.

In your sweetwater, blood of Bar Kochba,  
Syrians and Israelis.

In your sweetwater, tears of poet Rachel,  
alone and ill, who called you my sea,  
Kinneret Sheli.

On your shore scholars studied Mishnah,  
Talmud Yerushalmi.

Birthplace of Naomi, poet and songbird  
of your eucalyptus trees.  
Sea of Galilee,  
you wax with fish and loaves  
of prophets and kibbutzim  
wane with ancestral huts  
first foragers' homes of sticks and mud  
ancestral bones, ancestral seeds.

Sea of Galilee  
Heart of Israel, Jordan's lifeline,  
in your fresh water, blood and tears  
flow to the Dead Sea.

Kinneret Sheli,  
Minya, Tiberias, Gennesaret, Galilee,  
fragile, enduring, receiving, pouring,  
Lake of Life, you weep and wail,  
shout and sing your names to me.

Our trail, a gash, zigzags across the Empire State  
through wounded towns where funeral and tattoo  
parlors remain. In Ilion, Remington hires  
two hundred to make America's shotguns.  
Brockport has college kids, and Rome has I.T.  
In Canastota, we meet Mexicans staying at  
Rodeway Inn while they overhaul factories.  
Union workers strike in a rusted out town  
with boarded up stores and broken down dreams.

Eight days we bike past idle locks on cinder paths  
covered with colonies of geese or their droppings.  
Like people, the geese move on after they have  
polluted the place. In many spots the trails are ruts  
or disappear into weeds and grass. So we bike  
the shoulders of highway 5. Closer to Albany  
we find more rails to trails paved with asphalt.  
But roots, offspring of trees toppled by tree fellers  
and stump pullers, push up the tarmac to jolt us.  
Mile 294. An arbor of trees shades us in Cohoes.  
Resting on manure, in a shaft of light, a butterfly.

## Sylvia Dresser

### Autumn Lies Upon the Land

Coiled Basket: wool/viscose yarn, embellished with beads



Our study of landscapes always brought vivid images to mind. I found that the colors I saw were often those of autumn, my favorite season, as we experience it here in the

Upper Midwest.

### A Study in Contrasts

Wall Quilt: cotton fabrics, embellished with beads and embroidery



There is a marked contrast between the apparent emptiness of the desert/wilderness and the cultivated, orderly landscape of the vineyard. One has to look closely to find both the hidden treasures of the wilderness and the wildness within the cultivated field.

**Sylvia Dresser** has held fiber in her hands since she was a child, learning to knit, crochet and embroider from her grandmother. She continues to learn new techniques and seeks out ways to express concepts using a variety of materials.

## Marla Snyder

### The Sea of Galilee

Glass and acrylic paint with ink pen



I was inspired by our conversations regarding the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. We all have learned that there is so much more to giving than receiving. The

Sea of Galilee is the song of life...it gives and receives. A special thank you to my fellow artist Lois Baer Barr for her inspiring and historical poem.

**Marla Snyder** is the Studio Art Instructor at the Rochelle Zell Jewish High School in Deerfield. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Illinois and a Master of Liberal Studies degree from Lake Forest College. She teaches her signature "Watercolor for Those Who Don't Think They Can" class privately and at area community centers.

### Sea of Galilee

Poem by Lois Baer Barr



*Marla Snyder's painted glass work inspired this poem. Historical events and stories of great miracles are associated with this body of water; moreover, remains of the oldest known intact fruit and grains have been found in excavations there.*

See page 3 for **Lois Baer Barr's** biography.



**Judith Joseph**  
**Ghost Scroll VII**  
Acrylic on Tyvek



**Ghost Scroll VII** is one of a series of paintings and wood-cut prints inspired by a Czech Torah that was restored after the Holocaust. It was printed outdoors by a steamroller and hand-colored with acrylic paint.

**Black River Falls**  
Watercolor on paper



**Black River Falls** depicts a place in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan which was a favorite spot for my husband and me to take our kids as they were growing up. We hiked along the river and walked out on the huge boulders. The river was red with iron sediments and thundered mightily as it found its way down to Lake Superior. We would go down to the beach and throw rocks in the cold, deep lake. Being together in the woods and on the water created a family bond and a spiritual connection.

**Judith Joseph** is a painter and calligrapher. She exhibits internationally and creates commissioned works for public and private collections. She specializes in the Ketubah (illustrated Jewish marriage contract). Judith received Illinois Arts Council Artists' Fellowship Awards in 1998 and 2004. She is a Spertus fellow of the Midwest Jewish Artists Lab.

**Philip Feitelberg**  
**Renewal**  
Photograph



**Philip Feitelberg**, born and raised in South Africa, has been involved in photography for over 60 years and his work is included in the permanent collections of two museums and several prestigious corporate collections. His work has been shown in numerous international salons, many group exhibits and eight one-man shows, including two in Chicago. He is a Chartered Accountant (US equivalent of CPA) with master's degrees in Tax Law and Fine Arts, and an undergraduate degree in economic history.

**Earth Water Sky**  
Photograph



**Renewal** and **Earth Water Sky** are both composite images - Archival inkjet prints.

## Sharone Goodman

### Uncovering the Veil of Nature

Charcoal on paper



I have considered myself an artist since the age of 5 and began learning Torah in my early twenties. I have continued to be passionate about Art and Torah ever since. I strive to express this dynamic in all my works. *I ask myself. "How can I show the viewer, that there is spiritual life present and not seen?*

That G-dliness is all around us, yet not perceived by the physical eye? How can I show you, through a picture, that *G-d is the Creator of the World?"* My Kavana (intention): Working to see behind nature (Hashem's medium to hide himself in) and imagine the Hebrew alphabet being used to constantly recreate the physical world.

## Womb

Charcoal on paper



Kavana: Imagining the Womb while a baby is learning Torah before it is born.

**Sharone Goodman** is a graduate of The Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC and The Style Core Institute in Los Angeles. She began her career as a menswear designer and continued her creative journey as a stylist and artist specializing in drawing, painting and fiber.

## Brenda Jackson

### Rearranging Itself

Acrylic and thread on canvas



The composition of my painting is based on an actual photo I took from the plane flying to New York. I have always been mesmerized looking down at the landscape created by a higher power but altered in interesting and significant ways by humans-an earth that has been chopped up, compartmentalized and divided for working, learning, living, entertaining, growing and creating. It has been uglified and beautified in astounding ways. When I view it from the sky I see the manmade dividing lines and boundaries but there are also natural connections. Places that can be *crossed over and into, areas that are "stitched" together,* under construction and ready to be healed or repaired. Chaos can be turned into order and what appears to be isolation or confusion is actually a place where change can happen. I am fascinated as to how pieces become a whole to create our *own landscape within a larger landscape.* *"There is an ongoing discovery of interconnectedness and an understanding that man is related to the whole thing, related inextricably to all reality known and unknowable."* (Wherever You Go, There You Are by Jon Kabat-Zinn)

**Brenda Jackson** is an artist with a degree in painting from Hope College in Holland, MI and a degree in Art Education from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has taught in the Chicago public and private school system as well as for the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Preschool at NSS Beth El.