

Margo Berkson Berg

Nes Gadol Haya Sham (A Great Miracle Occurred There)

Acrylic and Mixed Media



Margo Berkson Berg has a BA from Northeastern Illinois University as well as an Associates of Arts Degree from William Rainey Harper College. She has taken classes at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Evanston Art Center, and Countryside Art Gallery (Arlington Heights), and is a member of the Chicago Society of Artists, American Jewish Artists' Club (President: 2000-2004, Vice President: 1998-1999, Board Member 1997-present), Group 22, and Women in the Visual Arts

(WITVA).

My work reflects my studies of Jewish history. This painting represents the celebration of Hanukkah and the miracle of the menorah shedding light for eight days when it was thought that it would shed light for one day. The symbols in my artwork are: people dancing the traditional Hora; dreidels in the margin; the dove with the olive branch represents the light it brought to the world when it returned to the ark carrying the branch in its mouth. Oil was squeezed from the olives into a vial and this oil transcended the laws of nature by miraculously burning for eight days.

Marlene Diamond

The Book of Judith

Assemblage



Marlene Diamond studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and exhibited at their Sales and Rental Gallery as well as at galleries in the Chicago area and abroad.

I try to explore and highlight women's contributions throughout history. This book – based on the story of the ancient book named after the heroine Yehudit – was meant to inspire faith and courage in the hearts of Jews throughout the ages. The box cover is a hand-tooled silver sheet, decorated in silver brads, glass, silver, and gold beads depicting the camp of Holofernes. The inside covers are composed of hand-painted tissue papers, drawings of Judith and the beheaded Holofernes, beaded fabric, lace, hand-tooled silver-covered match boxes of a Torah beaded, and a mini-book with the inspirational story of Judith. The base is covered in embossed and commercial paper.

Beverly Ellstrand
The Magic of Hanukkah
Mixed Media



Beverly Ellstrand has a long and varied career in the arts, widely exhibiting her paintings in galleries such as the Art Rental Gallery at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Fort Wayne Art Museum. She has been an arts educator teaching students from 8 to 80 in many different venues such as community colleges, elementary schools, and park districts.

My philosophy is simple. I would like to introduce the public to the joys of all art. This can make them aware of the beauty that is all about them and enrich their lives. My painting shows the viewers my memory of a winter's night scene. It is Hanukkah. Through the window one sees the warmth of the light from the candles. All about the night sky the stars twinkle and there is "the magic of Hanukkah" in the air.

Sandra Holubow
A Tapestry of Hanukkah Memories
Collage and Paint



Sandra Holubow has a traditional classical art background, graduating from the University of Wisconsin at Madison with a degree in Art and Art Education. She studied printmaking at Pratt Graphics in New York, and in an MFA Program at the University of Chicago. As a seasoned, mature artist, she has seen many art movements and schools come and go in the art world, but for her the standard remains the same: she hopes to achieve a connection, to evoke emotion from the people who view her work.

I am a Chicagoan, raised in an Orthodox Jewish home and currently a member of a Reform temple. I feel I am part of all Jews around the world, sympathetic to our causes, and concerned about our survival.

Suzanne Horwitz
Triumphant Celebrants
Stainless Steel



Suzanne Horwitz, a graduate of the University of Michigan, earned her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, studied drawing and sculpture at the Art Students' League of New York,

and is a second-generation artist. Her work has been exhibited in numerous venues throughout the country. Horwitz's sculpture won recognition at the Montclair Art Museum (New Jersey), and the Louise and Maurice Yochim Award from the American Jewish Artists Club. Her work is represented in corporate collections including The Options Clearing Corporation in Chicago and Goldman Sachs in New York, plus many private collections.

Horwitz has produced a diverse and extensive body of work. Her pieces range from intimate portraits to large room sized installations and public sculpture. Currently, her large outdoor aluminum sculpture "Nautilus" is being exhibited at the "2012-2013 Chicago Parks Sculpture Exhibition" in conjunction with the 23rd International Sculpture Center Conference in Chicago. In spring-summer 2011 it was exhibited at Art Chicago. Horwitz lives and maintains a studio in Highland Park and is a faculty member of the Art Center of Highland Park. Please visit her website at www.suzannehorwitz.com.

*My first instinct for this piece was to think about celebrations and festivities because, after all, Hanukkah is a joyous holiday. This led naturally to the work's design as I was inspired by dance, in itself a narrative celebratory art form. The nine figures of **Triumphant Celebrants** are oriented from right to left, the way we read Hebrew. The Shamash, to the far right, is enlarged to imply illuminated manuscript writing. The candles are placed slightly to the right and in front of each figure. As the candles burn and become shorter, the shadows of the figures will grow larger, referencing the miracle of that small band of Maccabees defending the Temple from Antiochus's armies, and the single cruse of oil that lasted for eight days.*

Judith Joseph
Ocean Crossing II
Egg Tempera with Mixed Media



Painter and calligrapher Judith Joseph has created hundreds of commissioned works. Her specialty is the hand-lettered, hand-painted *ketubot*. Her paintings and installations have been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions. She received an Illinois Arts Council Fellowship Award in 1998 and 2002. She is on the faculty of the Art Center in Highland Park and the Chicago Botanic Garden.

My grandmother was born on the first day of Hanukkah 1902. She lived to be 92 years old and was truly a force of nature. There were legendary accounts of her feats of bravery and pluck from an early age in her home village outside of Kremnitz, Ukraine. I imagine my grandmother crossing the great ocean to start a new life in America. She quickly learned English (as well as German, since her first job was working in the Jaeger Bakery in Milwaukee). But she carried her superstitions, fears, and beliefs with her from the old country, and she never lost them. At the end of her life, she was calling for "Sonia," her pet cow from childhood, some 80 years earlier.

Michael Karzen
Triumph of Freedom
Acrylic



Michael Karzen holds an MFA from the University of Chicago and has studied at the Art Institute of Chicago and UCLA. He served the Chicago Public School System in various capacities: teacher, department chair, curriculum coordinator. Mr. Karzen has exhibited widely in numerous venues. He is the recipient of numerous prizes for painting and several important stained glass window commissions. His works appear in many private collections.

Hanukkah is an example of the indestructibility of the Jewish people. As it states in the Haggadah, in every generation evil forces arose to annihilate us. In every generation we have survived. The cruse of oil, which miraculously lasted for eight days, has been transformed into the brilliant light of the Hanukkah candles, a symbol of the indomitable, eternal spirit of the Jewish people.

Jenny Learner
For Chagall
Encaustic Mobile



Chicagoan Jenny Learner has been making art her entire life. She was classically trained at the American Academy of Art and self-taught in interior, surface design and photography. For over 30 years this multi-faceted artist has been designing custom room dividers, screens, hand-painted wall coverings, fabrics, murals, and site-specific art for interior designers and architects. She exhibits, teaches, curates, and juries locally and nationally.

*After an introduction to encaustic nine years ago, I fell in love with the ancient medium of fusing fire with beeswax and pure pigment. Encaustic became my elixir of life. Imagine painting and sculpting within the wonderful realm of flowers and honey. The medium's luminosity, transparency, aromatherapy, alchemy, with the unexpected results constantly surprise me. I gain inspiration for my new work from earth's multiple landscapes and wonders including raw gemstones, outer space, medicine, life, and dreams. Further curious and fascinated with evolution, anthropology and time, as an artist I am grateful to be living in this digital age with resources at my fingertips. The photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand and the Hubble telescope's imagery of the Universe endlessly act as my muse. The piece **For Chagall** is a mobile. There are 9 strands. I start with ink paintings on watercolor paper. Then I tear, cut, and weave shapes, and monoprint in encaustic paint to add texture, color, and wire which adds soft motion.*

Paulette S. Levy
Chanukah Mandala
Digital Imaging



Paulette S. Levy has studied at Oakton Community College (Des Plaines), Barat College (Lake Forest), Evanston Art Center, Village Art School (Skokie), Loop Jr. College (Chicago), and the Art Institute of Chicago. Her honors include a Certificate of Web Graphic Page Design (High Honors), Phi Theta Kappa, Oakton Community College Honor Society (1998-2005), Skyway Exhibition Finalist (1998), and Raymond Fund Scholarship, Art Institute of

Chicago (1961-1962).

*I consider myself a progressive artist. I generate my presentations on the computer. I draw with a pen and tablet or a mouse. I am using a Mandala as the structure for my artwork. I define Mandala as “a circle of belief.” This piece is part of a body of work that will soon represent many of the Jewish holidays. In **Chanukah Mandala** I am telling an old story with “a new light.” I am telling the story through illustration and words, text being a very popular art form in 2012. Celebrating the retaking of the Temple Mount by our Maccabee heroes, the miracle of the oil and the light that burns in every Jewish heart are the part of the story that is retold over and over. I relate my stories in pixels telling my interpretations byte by byte. As their stories are dismantled into the atmosphere, mine will one day live on a cloud.*

Barbara Lipkin

The Rebbe's Daughter's Chanukah

Oil with Ink and Pastel



Barbara Lipkin has been making art most of her life, but after retiring from a career in nursing she decided to pursue her passion for painting full time. She has taken many courses and workshops over the years in painting, drawing, sculpture, print-making and art history.

***The Rebbe's Daughter's Chanukah** was inspired by a book I read some time ago about a rebbe's court in Poland, and the rebbe's family. The court was a place of great joy and celebration, and the rebbe's oldest daughter was a very enthusiastic participant in all the holidays. I wanted to capture the magic of the holiday in an abstract, surreal sort of way. I struggled with it for a while, but finally came up with a very layered approach. This is an unusual technique for me. I normally develop a composition first, and work from there. This time I just applied color, scraped, glazed, drew, added dreidels and some Hebrew calligraphy, layered on some more color. The rebbe and his daughter came last, after I had already achieved a complex abstract design, so the figures appear almost collaged on to the surface. The painting is oil on panel, with some ink and pastel.*

Bert Menco

Hadlakat Hanerot (Kindling the Lights)

Etching/Aquatint/Chine collé



Bert Menco, a retired research scientist (Northwestern University's Department of Neurobiology and Physiology), has been making art all his life. He works in drawing, painting, etching, drypoint, and mezzotint. He has had numerous solo shows and his art is represented in more than fifty public and private collections, including the Rotterdam Museum in his native country, The Netherlands. He won several awards, among them a Sponsor's Prize at the Third Sapporo International Print Biennale (1996, Japan) and a third prize at an International Print Show in Sobral (Brazil, 2012). His work was included in *The Best of Printmaking, An International Collection* (Rockport Publishers, 1997). In 2011 he was an Artist-in-Residence at the Print Base in Guanlan/Shenzhen, China.

Though they may seem simple, my paintings, drawings, and intaglio prints are actually quite elaborate; half a year's work on an image is no exception for me. I draw directly or use small sketches, even doodles, as image-generating nuclei, often combining two or three that appear to complement each other. I rarely use concrete references, but rather works from inner visions. I tend to be narrative in my own art, perhaps poetic narrative. I don't see my images as telling a story but rather as reflections of inner feelings, similar to some poetry, and would like observers to read them as such.

Hadlakat Hanerot is an etching/aquatint/chine collé that is two pieces of paper glued together, one containing the image, the other the carrier during the printing process. The image is of a mother and her son lighting the candles for the holiday. The Hanukkah is on the son's head with the word *Emet* (Truth) on his forehead like the legendary Prague Golem, a spirit given life to protect the Jews. Here, perhaps, is a similar spirit, the mother having given life to her son hoping that he has that spirit.

Adrien Pikovsky
Flavors of Chanukah
Collage and Mixed Media



Adrien Pikovsky grew up on the west side of Chicago. She studied photography at Wright Junior College where she participated in several exhibitions. She has been involved in various multi-artist shows around Chicago as well as a solo photo exhibit, "One Brief Moment in Time." She is a member of the American Jewish Artists Club.

As a photographer, I am able to find a 'voice' for my feelings. I want to share with others the joys that I have experienced through my eyes; to show the exquisiteness of nature, the beauty of destruction, the diversity of humanity, and the humor all around us. This collage, perhaps in keeping somewhat with 'still life' imagery, is a new approach in my artistic style but basically it represents the joys and charm of family life during the Hanukkah festivities.

Judith Roth
Ness Gadol Hayah Sham
(A Great Miracle Happened Here)
Oil on Canvas



Judith Roth was born in Boston and is a graduate of the Boston Museum School and Tufts University. In Chicago, she attended classes at the School of the Art Institute and Hyde Park Art Center, while working as a window designer for Marshall Field & Co. Her first-time showing in Chicago was at Hyde Park's 57th Street Art Fair back in 1958. Since then she has shown locally and nationally including Spertus Museum, Chicago State University, the National Museum of Women in the Arts (Washington, DC), Trenton State College, SOMArts Cultural Center (San Francisco), and Duderstadt Center Gallery (Ann Arbor). Her work appears in corporate and private collections in Illinois and elsewhere.

Judith Roth (continued)

I am a figurative artist, a product of the Boston Expressionist tradition. Having drawn from the time I was a kid and through the classical traditions and disciplines learned at the Boston Museum School, I have spent most of my Chicago life melding that way of seeing and working with the incredible burst of energy that met my soul when I arrived on the Chicago scene. That struggle still goes on and probably will always be part of my work. Though the medium and techniques vary, from painting in oil, to drawing (pastel, graphite, oil stick, etc), most of my work deals with the abstract essence of the human form and its expression. Process is always evident, as in raw edges, the search lines that persist through to the finished piece and the use of space which has always haunted my work from the time when, as a student, I became infatuated with the incredible Chinese screens and scrolls that I spent time with at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Darryll Schiff **Chanukkah Festival of Lights** Photography



Darryll Schiff is a Chicago native who studied photography at the Institute of Design under Aaron Siskind, Joseph Jachna, Gary Winogrand, and Arthur Siegel. He has shot commercial assignments for clients such as Los Angeles Magazine, San Francisco Magazine, Stern, Geo, Rolling Stone and also many celebrities including Robin Williams, Jada Pinkett Smith, Tea Leoni, Mark Harmon, and Holly Robinson Peete. He now works exclusively on his fine art. Mr. Schiff's work appears in the collections of the Art Institute Chicago, Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, George Eastman House, and many private collectors.

In my pictures there is nothing arbitrary. Everything belongs there. The camera is the last thing I think about after hours, days, at times even months of formulating and refining my thoughts. Then this is translated, oftentimes in quite complex ways, to visual imagery.

Molly J. Schiff
Nine Counts
Collage



After a couple of local area art classes, Molly J. Schiff determined that entry into the School of the Art Institute was much needed to enhance her learning experiences in drawing, painting, and printing. It resulted in BFA, MFA and MAE degrees but one must also include the 'degree of patience' necessary for future artistic growth.

*Art has become a lifelong adventure within a framework that is dictated by knowledge, experience, and mood - a successful harmonious blend in my creative activities. **Nine Counts** establishes the importance of the Shamash because without nine we wouldn't have eight, therefore, nine counts. Using the collage technique with a concentration on the candles themselves without the Hanukkiah was an interesting approach that resulted in my satisfaction with this art work; but also keeping in mind that our lights will never go out.*

Jack Siegel
Chanukah Memories
Oil on Canvas



Jack Siegel was born and raised on Chicago's West Side. From his very earliest years, he spent a great deal of time drawing and dreaming about one day being an artist. With a lot of encouragement from his parents and elementary school teachers, he began his lifetime journey into the world of art. After high school, he enrolled in the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, graduating with a degree in drawing, painting, and advertising design.

I want my work to reflect a moment in time, to tell a story, to give pause for contemplation and, yes, even a smile of recognition. Much of the art produced by the great 19th and early 20th century painters expressed, in one form or another, this viewpoint. These artists have had a profound influence on my work from my earliest memories. A whirl of light, warmth, love, and Jewish pride color the depiction of my memories of Hanukkah.

Lorre Slaw

A Menorah for My Granddaughter Grace

Computer Art



Lorre Slaw graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago with a Bachelor of Art Education and a Master of Fine Art in Printmaking. She has taught as a substitute teacher in suburban schools, an adjunct teacher in the OST and Graphic Art departments at Oakton Community College, and the Anne Blitstein Institute. She was a computer trainer at the Royal Zenith pre-press company where she

became interested in the computer as an art form.

*Nothing is more beautiful than to watch my granddaughter Grace light the menorah each evening at Hanukkah time. The room takes on a warm glow, the evening is peaceful and the tradition of Grace smiling and lighting the candles is unforgettable. I am happy that I will have this as a memory forever. This print, **A Menorah for my Granddaughter Grace**, is a part of the Hanukkah gifts I will be giving to Grace this year.*

Michelle Stone

Grew Some Candles

Gel and Plaster with Acrylic Paint



For 25 years Michelle Stone taught painting and drawing at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in the Continuing Studies Department, and at Art Encounter, a non-profit arts and education organization. She has conducted workshops, collaborated on murals, and constructed site-specific works, outdoor and indoor, in addition to her sculptures, paintings, drawings, installations, and portraits. Stone is affiliated with Ceres Gallery, 3-D 12 Sculptor group, and Dialogue Chicago. She exhibits and works in the Chicago area and has been included in numerous national and international collections and shows.

This acrylic paint, gel, and plaster sculpture is a menorah that is slightly awkward, slightly uncomfortable, slightly exaggerated and unusable. It has a sense of being "in progress." The content and meaning for me is an ongoing process of education and learning about customs, heritage, belief, and possibility. I attempt to present some questions about how far a form can be pushed, and continue to retain some comfort, and adhere to origin, and tradition.

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.

Artwork from **The Spirit of Hanukkah** exhibit is available for purchase. Contact Rachel Kamin at rkamin@nssbethel.org or 847/432-8903 x 242 for more information.

*North Suburban
Synagogue*
Beth El
בית כנסת בית אל

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