

B"H  
Old City Jewish Art Center  
A project of Jewish Heritage Programs

*First Friday Passover Art Exhibition*  
*April 4-27, 2008*

*Artist Biographies*

Zoe Abboudi, 5th grade

I like all kinds of art. I like sculpting, statues, and oil pastels. My favorite projects have been the Jackson Pollock project and a teapot that I made and I still use!

Ilana Aidman, 2nd grade

I like to make pictures of mountains and use colored pencils and paint.

Jeffrey Allon

Jeffrey Allon studied fine arts in the US and England and then renaissance art in Italy. From 1978 to 1997 he lived in Israel. In addition to his illuminated works of Judaica, he has produced a considerable amount of other original paintings and has exhibited in the United States, England, and Israel. His work hangs in private collections world wide. His work exhibits a rare artistic mastery in his drawing and painting, influenced both by his academic training and the Renaissance masters. He brings this mastery to full expression in his highly original Ketubot, Judaica designs, and paintings.

Cynthia Blackwood

Cynthia Blackwood graduated with a B.A. in Fine Arts from Colgate University as well as a M.S. in Printmaking and Art Education from College of St. Rose. She is the owner of The Frame House in Elkins Park, PA and has three children: Evan, Alexander and Jacob.

"Most of my "artistic" time is now spent working, creating framing solutions for my customers in Elkins Park. I relish the opportunity to go back into my creating artwork through paper cuts and printmaking. Thank you for the venue."

Susan Deane

Susan Deane has loved art all her life. Her father, local photography studio owner and well known local artist, Edward Moskow, instilled and nurtured that love by exposing his children, all through their lives, to art of all genres. That appreciation shows in Susan's eclectic style.

She works with many different materials from colored inks and pencils, acrylic paints and ceramic tiles. Unusual handmade papers and organic materials make collages and Asian-influenced lighting fixtures. Susan's love of nature both on the surface and on a more spiritual level is reflected in many of her works. Her attention to detail makes her work that much more interesting.

Sam Etskovitz, Student

Sam attends Sandy Run Middle School and completing 7th grade. His passion is ice hockey which he plays throughout the year. He was assistant Captain for both his middle school hockey team which they were champions this year and assistant Captain for his home team the Wintersport Royals.

Joanne Hoffman

Joanne Hoffman studied at the Philadelphia Museum, earned a B.F.A. from The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and University of Pennsylvania, completed the two year course at the Barnes Foundation, a summer at Harvard which was the summer of Jim Morrison and the Doors and miscellaneous courses at Tyler and PCA. An art director/designer since 1978 in Philadelphia and NYC, she opened her own advertising and graphic design business in 1992. She works in mixed media and ceramics.

Rachel Katz

I have a BFA from Tyler School of Art, and I am a practicing artist. I do sculpture, painting and performance art. In my art classes at Torah Academy I am focusing on teaching the students a variety of styles and mediums through learning about different artists and art movements. I feel it is important for students to understand that being an artist means expressing creativity in any form, not just drawing well. I stress the idea that there is room for every kind of person in art, that each person can come up with their own style that expresses their unique vision. We have studied the American impressionists, pop artists Andy Warhol and Keith Haring, native American art, recycled art, Mexican art, Georgia O'Keefe, Marc Chagal, Jackson Pollack, Alexander Calder, Henri Matisse, to name a few. I truly believe in the importance of art as an educational and life skill and strive to create and space in which students can explore and learn openly and creatively.

Dorothy Koch

Dorothy Koch is a native of New Jersey and received her B.F.A. from Rutgers University.

Her work has been exhibited at Huntertown Art Association, Rutgers Medical School, Bailey Hall, Broward Community Colleges, Pargot Gallery and the Gallery at Lincoln Center.

Kayla Libesman, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

I love art. My favorite artists are Shakespeare and Chuck Close. I like to do sculpting and painting.

Liliana Life

"Four Questions y Algunas Oraciones"

"Mystic Objects/Objetos Místicos"

is a collection of works born from an intention to reveal colors and shapes as they relate to human conscious spirituality, while transcending ordinary knowledge and seeking higher forces. Experiences hidden in our everyday perception of the world are the inspiration for this works. Through introspection and exploration, using canvases as springboards, each piece represents an inner reality that creates a pure and direct relationship between the viewer and the work. Each OBJECT- as well as each installation - stimulating unique awareness and a personal response.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, there she studied art at the National Schools of Fine Arts Manuel Belgrano, Prilidiano Pueyrredon, and Ernesto de la Carcova. She also studied at Temple University and Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, USA, graduating with honors at all schools. As of now, a recognized artist by the Ministry of Culture of Argentina, she counts approximately fifty solo exhibits and one hundred and fifty collective shows in the Americas, China and Europe.

Although most of her energies are directed to painting, other professional experiences include lecturing as well as teaching; she has been involved with teen art festivals and art centers, consulting for the New Jersey School of the Arts, and has been a guest speaker for organizations such as the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick. Curating and coordinating exhibits and events have also been very rewarding experiences for her.

Many of her works are included in private as well as public collections (Academia Nacional del Tango, Buenos Aires, Instituto Cultural Puertorriqueño, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Casino de Torre Vieja, Spain, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, The Atlantic City (NJ) Permanent Collection and Museo de la SHOA in Buenos Aires, among others).

In Philadelphia, she has been a member of ZONE ONE artists' cooperative. Recognized in 2001 by the NJ Department of Community Affairs, the Office of the Mayor of Newark, and the Newark Municipal Council, Liliana Life also received an Artistic Achievement Award granted by the Newark Art Council. She has been a participant in the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program in 2002, and she created the Politz School Art Studio in New Jersey, while mentoring on ongoing basis in the fields of Painting, Sculpture and Dancing. Listed in the 2005-05 and 2006-07 "Art in America" Guide to galleries, museums and artists.

Michele Machles

Michele is an artist living in Philadelphia who has been teaching "Visual Prayer" at supplementary Hebrew Schools for 20 years. In "Visual Prayer", children select a prayer, learn the meaning, and then interpret their personal meaning into a work of art.

Michael Neff

As an art student, I explored the kind of ink painting that is based on a foundation of discipline and then moves to the spontaneity that links ones spirit to the spirit of the subject being depicted. I'm just an artist, really just a cartoonist. Usually I have to work hard to express what I want. But during the years when I worked on the drawings in this exhibit, the images seemed to flow from my mind, down my arm, out of my pen and onto the page with little or no intervention from myself.

One of the first Hasidic stories I illustrated (not included in this exhibition) is called To Tell a Story! It's about a sick and cranky old Hasid whose family begs him to tell the story of his young days. Reluctantly, the old man begins his story, and as he recounts, his mood changes, he limbers up, and soon he is dancing with his family. The last line is, "That's the way to tell a story!" A story can be Help in itself. If I had any intention in making these drawings, it was to create something that would be help in itself.

Sophia Ostroff, Student

Sophia loves theater, visual art and making friends. She is a student at the Perelman Jewish Day School in Elkins Park and her artwork has been published in a multi-cultural magazine.

Peter Reich

Founder and owner of PETER ASSOCIATES, since 1985, has been designing and manufacturing interactive displays all over the world. From New York to

Hong Kong his devices entertain and educate thousands of museum visitors each year. His 15,000 square-foot Philadelphia facility includes precision metalworking and fabrication, cabinet work, electronics, hydraulics, and computer controls. This adds up to exceptional quality and reliability for all displays, from a small table top exhibit to a sixteen-foot dinosaur.

Sharon Ritz

Sharon Ritz is an emerging mosaic artist who enjoys creating secular and Judaic art pieces. Her Judaic creations include tzedakah boxes, challah boards and hamsa art. Sharon is a stay-at-home mom who lives in New Jersey just outside of Philadelphia with her husband and three sons.

*“Crossing the Red Sea” Seder Plate*

When crossing the Red Sea, the Israelites displayed unimaginable courage and strength in the belief that Hashem would protect them. This seder plate depicts the parting of the turbulent waters while the Israelites crossed over from slavery to deliverance.

Sharon can be reached via e-mail at [Sharparts@comcast.net](mailto:Sharparts@comcast.net) and her website is <http://sharparts.tripod.com> .

Mordechai Rosenstein

The Hebrew alphabet is the essence of the art of Mordechai Rosenstein. "The flowing forms of the letters have been an inspiration to me since my youth." Mordechai's love of these forms is evident in every piece he creates. His vibrant shapes and colors enhance synagogue, home and agency interiors, stained glass, tapestries, paintings, murals, and silk screen prints. By uniting his interest in Judaica and painting, Rosenstein has given a contemporary meaning to the art of Hebrew calligraphy. Internationally, audiences in Zurich, Hong Kong, and London have welcomed Rosenstein, viewing his paintings and learning from the slide and PowerPoint lecture he presents. He studied in the The Philadelphia College of Art and currently lives in Elkins Park, PA

Arthur Sauerhaft

Arthur began doing pottery in his fortieth year. He likes to make practical forms with a natural feel.

Deborah Schafer

The more I draw from life, the better I can draw from imagination.

I often think of a portrait as a landscape of someone's face: Encountering a face before me, I see a terrain of geographic convexities, textures and movements, ever so unique,

yet ever so familiar. A portrait is a landscape of a human soul, a singular personality etched by circumstances and experience in life's journey.

Likewise, I think of a landscape as a portrait of a small bit of earthly terrain: Its geographic countenance is also one of convexities and textures. The energy of the atmosphere, light and weather mold its temper and personality. A landscape is a face, or facet, of one small surface of this living planet.

People and faces are an endless source of fascination.

I draw from life because seeing the subject illuminated by light means being there, and being there means really having the opportunity to experience and explore the subject. When drawing from life, one can feel and interact with the subject's energy, and vice versa: I like people and enjoy the collaborative effort. Whether it is a portrait or caricature, figure or cartoon, I endeavor to capture a moment, an emotion, an essence of personality that we all commonly relate to. The more I draw from life, the better I can draw from imagination.

Rivkah Scheer, 4th grade

My favorite hobby is art. I like to do pottery and painting. I started drawing when I was very young in Montessori school and I would draw for hours.

Mark S. Segal

Mark S. Segal graduated from Boston University School of Fine Arts in 1974 and has been a performing puppeteer since 1977. Over 40,000 people see Mark's shows each year. He is best known for "Tooth Buddy Tales" a show that appears regularly within the 5 county areas each year. Since 1985 Mark has built and performed shows for Jewish organizations. His professional involvement in the Jewish Community was due to an association that started with Lubavitch and Rabbi Menachem Schmidt in 1985. Mark is honored to be part of this exhibit as well as to be considered a "friend of Lubavitch".

Levi Sherman, 4th grade

My favorite kind of painting is watercolors. I also like to copy drawings. My favorite artwork was my sculpture of an animal and painting the mural on the wall.

Sa'adyah Simon, 1st grade

Building with wood is my favorite kind of art. I also like to make drawings with oil pastels and paintings with watercolor paint. My favorite artists are Henri Matisse and Andy Warhol.

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Scott Michael Solodar, Student

Scott is a student at The Woodlynde School, a private school located in Wayne, Pennsylvania. He belongs to a Synagogue, Beth OR in Maple Glen, Pennsylvania where art teacher, Michele Machles, inspires the younger congregants to create spiritual works of art. His current artwork entitled "Who Is like You G-d" is on exhibition at the Old City Jewish art Center from April 4-27, 2008. His hobbies are drawing, history, and playing video games.

Yoni Spero, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

My mother and I always go to exhibits at the art museum. The kind of art I saw there inspired me. I really like Andrew Wyeth. I have a huge picture of his in my room. My favorite kind of art is watercolors.

Shalom Stieglitz

My favorite kind of art is watercolor painting. I also like to take old things and turn them into art.

Chaya Steinberg, 1st grade

I like to draw my own pictures with markers, pastels, and watercolor pencils. My favorite artist is Georgia O'Keefe.

Jenna Steinbrink, Student

Jenna, a student at Sandy Run Middle School, is a member of Beth OR Congregation, is 12 years old and enjoys lacrosse, soccer, tennis, art, piano, reading and writing. In celebration of her Bat Mitzvah, Jenna has created a mitzvah project called Millions to Remember. Her goal is to collect six million pennies, one penny for every Jewish person who died in the Holocaust.

Lois Yampolsky

Lois has been an artist for about 40 years. The last few years, Lois has had her paintings exhibited at various shows. Her mediums also include charcoal and acrylic.

Lois has been the Executive Assistant at Lubavitch Center in Northeast Philadelphia for 26 years. She is married and has two sons, one daughter-in-law, and two twin grandsons.

Caroline Zaslow, 5th grade

I like all kinds of art. My favorite is clay making and painting. My favorite artist is Jackson Pollock.

Mordechai Zeffren, 2nd grade

Drawing landscapes is my favorite kind of art. I like to draw mountains and sunrises. I like to use pencils and oil pastels.