

JOURNEY THROUGH JEWISH HISTORY WALL HANGINGS (1982)

Women's League for Conservative Judaism



JOURNEY

THROUGH

JEWISH

HISTORY

Dear Convention Delegate:

The history of the Jewish people is a story of continuous adventure. We began our career in antiquity, when nations existed of whom nothing but a memory has survived. Today, we live when many new nations bestride our world. Yet through all the periods of uncertainty and conflict, our existence remains steadfast.

The wall hangings, A JOURNEY THROUGH JEWISH HISTORY from Abraham to the Jews in North America today, help us to view the entire pageant of our existence throughout the ages through the eye of a needle. As one follows the panorama, one can recognize the high points in our history as well as the tragedies and miraculous escapes from complete extinction.

The twenty-eight hangings have allowed for individual interpretation by members of each of our 28 Branches. The medium of expression was left to the expertise of the artists. In this cooperative effort, we behold the eternal expression of the Jewish spirit.

We offer these hangings as a manifestation of color, beauty, meaning, excitement, thoughtfulness, inspiration and celebration to you, the Delegates, as proof positive that when one studies and does research, one does GET WISDOM and, through this effort, GAIN UNDERSTANDING.

Helyn Berger
National Chairman
Creative Handicrafts

1. ABRAHAM - Michigan Branch

Here we see Abraham destroying his father's idols,
the miracle of Isaac's birth and his subsequent sacrifice.

Coordinator: Toby Dolinka
Artist: Judith Aronheim
Needle Worker: Judith Aronheim

2. ISAAC - Southern New Jersey Branch

It is said that the sun shone with unparalleled splendor
when Isaac was born. Shown here are various stages in his
life.

Coordinator: Sybil Bernstein
Artist: Rochelle Hirt
Needle Workers: Sybil Bernstein; Perri Dash; Rhoda Freedman;
Lois Goldberg

3. JACOB - Seaboard Branch

"Assemble yourselves, and hear, ye sons of Jacob,
and hearken unto Israel your father." Genesis 49:2

This piece depicts the blessings of Jacob's twelve
sons, as well as important aspects of his life - the
struggle at his birth, the disguise when receiving the
blessings of his father, the stone that he dedicated at
Bethel and the hills of Gilead to which he fled from
Laban.

Coordinator: Ruth Brinn
Artist: Estelle Lee
Needle Workers: Judy Bernstein; Harriet Best; Ruth Brinn;
Rose Cohen; Stella Kessler; Estelle Lee;
Charlotte Zeidman

4. JOSEPH - Brooklyn Branch

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a coat of many colours." Genesis 37:3

"Behold the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me." Genesis 37:7

"For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves came round about, and bowed down to my sheaf." Genesis 37:9

Coordinator: Ida Gold

Artist: Rhona Bitner

Needle Workers: Ida Gold; Beatrice P. Mandell

5. MOSES AND THE EXODUS - 13TH CENTURY BCE -
Westchester-Rockland Branch

Moses bridges the gap from slavery to freedom. To the left are the symbols of slavery and events in Egypt. To the right are the events and symbols of the wanderings in the wilderness. Moses stands between them.

Coordinator: Beatrice P. Mandell

Artist: Barbara Adams

Needle Worker: Beatrice P. Mandell

6. MOUNT SINAI - South Shore Long Island Branch

"And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables." Exodus 32:16

"And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing; and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and broke them beneath the mount." Exodus 30:19

Coordinator: Marion Freedman
Artist: Marion Freedman
Needle Workers: Elaine Braun; Marion Freedman;
Mildred Schonfeld

7. BUILDING OF THE MISHKAN - Ohio-Kentucky Branch

"And let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." Exodus 25:8

This is a visual representation of the coverings of the Mishkan utilizing the colors specified in Exodus. The metallic bangles represent the metal clasps described as fastening parts of the veil or curtain together. The ribbons, wide and narrow, represent the ten curtains forming the tent; the purple braid represents the embroidery on these curtains.

Coordinators: Eileen S. Churney; Felice Sachs
Calligrapher: Eileen S. Churney
Artist: Joan Stein
Needle Workers: Eileen S. Churney; Felice Sachs;
Nettie Y. Schwartz

8. CANAAN AND JOSHUA - Pacific Southwest Branch

"Send those men, that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel"...
"And they came unto the valley of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bore it upon a pole between two." Numbers 13:2, 23

"And Joshua the son of Nun...who were of them that spied out the land." Numbers 14:6

Coordinator: Judith Springer
Artist: Debbie Kazil
Needle Workers: Anne Goleman; Charlene Kazil; Debbie Kazil;
Miriam Monijeh; Judy Rosenbaum; Judith Springer; Bonnie Vorspan

9. DEVORAH - Southern Branch

Devorah (meaning "bee") passed judgment while sitting under a palm tree. Also shown are a sword symbolizing her inspiration to the Israelite armies and a "shin" symbolizing Shaddai (God).

Coordinator: Marcia Menuskin
Artist: Mienieke Gold
Needle Worker: Marcia Menuskin

10. DAVID - 11-10 CENTURIES BCE - Connecticut Valley Branch

Here we see David's life, from his humble beginnings as a shepherd playing the lyre to his becoming the ultimate ruler of Judea and redeemer of the city of Jerusalem. The long twisting road symbolizes that it was no easy ascension to his destiny.

Coordinator: Phyllis Shaw
Artist: Dorothy Lotstein
Needle Workers: Estelle Epstein; Dorothy Lotstein; Gertrude Peters; Phyllis Shaw; Carol Timoner

11. SOLOMON AND THE FIRST TEMPLE - New England Branch

The first Temple, built by King Solomon, is said to have contained "the two pillars, and the two bowls of the capitals that were on the top of the pillars;...even all these vessels, which Hiram made for King Solomon, in the house of the Lord, were of burnished brass..."
I Kings 7:41-45

Coordinator: Lucille Smolens
Artist: Harriet Solit
Needle Workers: Marilyn Bernard; Phyllis Brody; Edith Danenberg

12. DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM - Ontario Branch

After the death of King Solomon in 928 BCE, two hostile sister kingdoms existed - the Southern, known as Judah and the Northern known as Israel. Jerusalem was the capital of the Kingdom of Judah.

Coordinator: Sarah Eker

Artist: Sharon Binder

Needle Workers: Sarah Eker; Margo Grosbein; May Sand

13. THE EXILE AND THE PROPHETS - New York State Branch

"There is in this city a man of God, and he is a man that is held in honor; all that he says surely comes to pass..." I Samuel 9:6

Coordinators: Dolly Fishman; Ruth Mendelsohn

Artist: Gary Fishman

Research: Joyce Goldberg

Needle Workers: Judy Davis; Dolly Fishman; Ruth Greenhouse;
Ruth Mendelsohn; Reeta Presant; Florence
Phillips; Annette Braiman Shapiro

14. HELLENISM - 2ND CENTURY BCE - Eastern Pennsylvania Branch

The influence of Hellenism on the Jews began during the time of the conquest of Alexander the Great.

Coordinator: Ilene Rosenwald

Artist: Susan Vizer

Needle Worker: Phyllis Goldbenberg

15. DESTRUCTION OF THE SECOND TEMPLE - 70 CE -
Northern New Jersey Branch

The Second Temple, pictured here, and the First Temple, were both traditionally thought to have been destroyed on the same day, the 9th of Av, Tisha BeAv.

Coordinator: Helyn Berger

Artist: Rosalyn Hollander

Needle Workers: Helyn Berger; Jeanne Eber; Fran Hagler; Marcia Nad

16. YAVNEH - Western Pennsylvania Branch

Yavneh became the center of Jewish spiritual and intellectual life after the destruction of the Second Temple. It remains the symbol of Jewish education to this day.

Coordinator: Roberta Schwartz

Artist: Brenda Orenstein

Needle Workers: Marilyn Markovitz; Roberta Schwartz

17. RABBINIC PERIOD - Southwest Branch

The head of the rabbi represents the great Rabbis of this period. The scroll represents the Talmud. The seven branched menorah appears with frequency and occupies a central position in Jewish art.

Coordinator: Sue Jacobson

Artist: Karen Rosenthal

Needle Workers: Sue Jacobson; Karen Rosenthal; Marlene Rosenthal

18. MAIMONIDES - 1134-1204 CE - Northern California Branch

Maimonides, the great physician, philosopher and codifier, was greatly influenced by Islamic Culture. His two greatest literary works are the Mishneh Torah and the Guide for the Perplexed.

Coordinators: Sharon Kasser; Gladys Straus

Artist: Kaye Reinhertz

Needle Workers: Olga Bernstein; Sharon Kasser; Joan Lyon;
Lorna Phenix; Kaye Reinhertz; Gladys Straus

19. GOLDEN AGE IN SPAIN - 11TH-13TH CENTURIES CE -
Central New Jersey Branch

The Jewish community flourished during this period,
giving Jews freedom for self expression and freedom to
practice the Jewish faith.

Coordinator: Janice Hymanson

Artist: Janice Hymanson

Needle Workers: Janice Hymanson; Marcia Kraut; Marilyn Lerner;
Bobby Lonsk; Elaine Ravich; Ann Schwartz

20. EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE AGES - Eastern Canada Branch

Crusaders brought horror to the Jews in Europe.
In spite of this, Jews were steadfast in their faith.

Coordinator, Artist & Needle Worker: Zena Herman

21. EXPULSION FROM PORTUGAL - 1497 CE - Central Branch

Portuguese Jews were subjected to mass conversions
to the Catholic faith or expulsion from the country,
leaving their children behind. They were forced to
wear pointed hats.

Coordinator: Myrna K. Schwartz

Artist: Joyce Goldberg

Needle Workers: Jean Bernstein; Hetty DeLeeuwe; Joyce Goldberg;
Myrna K. Schwartz; Clara Stearns

22. BRAZIL AND NEW AMSTERDAM - Pacific Northwest Branch

Represented here is the terror the Portuguese Jews
left behind in the old world, and the rich life they
developed in the new world. The twenty-three stars symbolize
the twenty-three Jews who landed in New Amsterdam in 1654.

Coordinator: Sandra Lake; Nancy Schneider
Artists: Norma DeMers; Sandra Lake
Needle Workers: Cecile Baroh; Tobi Braverman; Ellen Darr;
Delse Dworkin; Nora Eilenberg; Lana Finegold;
Linda Krisher; Florence Maslan; Rita Milavsky;
Arlene Mintz; Susan Price; Nancy Schneider;
Sari Schneider; Lorita Ungar

23. THE EMANCIPATION - Midwest Branch

It was late in the 18th Century when Jews were catapulted by the French Revolution out of the ghetto and into the main stream of society, thus enabling them to redefine the Jewish religion and identify with Western values.

Coordinator: Louise Kaufman
Artist: Janice Hymanson
Needle Worker: Louise Kaufman

24. IMMIGRATION TO NORTH AMERICA - 19TH CENTURY -
Philadelphia Branch

While yet a child of America I was told: "How happy its people, it's a land of gold." The Golden Medina

Coordinators: Loretta Arost; Elsa Wachs
Artist: Elsa Wachs
Needle Workers: Sylvia Feldman; Marris Laurence; Wendy Light;
Madeline Mauze; Celina Reibman; Edith Reuger;
Shirley Tatter; Elsa Wachs

25. THE SCHECHTERS AND THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT -
Florida Branch

Mathilde and Solomon Schechter were leading figures in Jewish scholarship as well as early spokesmen for Conservative Judaism.

Coordinator: Ozzie Gaines

Artists: Ozzie Gaines; Patty Kahn

Needle Workers: Sophie Cardone; Bernice Falck; Helen Hosid;
Sandra Oser; Hannah Rosenblum; Barbara Sager

26. THE HOLOCAUST - North Shore Long Island Branch

We cannot explain, and perhaps we will never understand. But we can remember.

Coordinators, Artists & Needle Workers: Gilda Hecht; Ellyn
Scheidlower

27. ISRAEL - Eastern Long Island Branch

"The attachment of Jews throughout the world to Israel is based on a common spiritual and cultural heritage, on a historical love for the land which was the birthplace of the Jewish people and the Bible."

David Ben Gurion

Coordinator: Harriet Hoffman

Artist: Sheron Kohn

Needle Worker: Myra Nassem

28. THE JEWISH COMMUNITY TODAY IN NORTH AMERICA -
Metropolitan Branch

A proud, viable minority in a democratic society committed to Jewish ethics and involved with the total life of the community.

Coordinator: Miriam Korman

Artists: Audrey Citak; Miriam Korman

Needle Workers: Miriam Korman; Rose Lefkowitz;
Pauline Schamholtz

National Chairman of Creative Handicrafts: Helyn Berger

Chairmen of Project: Gilda Hecht
Ellyn Sheidlower

Calligrapher: Anita Levine

Booklet Staff:

Coordinators: Marilyn Lerner
Janice Hymanson
Gert Klaus

Cover: Audrey Citak

Committee: Sybil Bernstein	Marcia Kraut
Ida Gold	Beatrice P. Mandell
Harriet Hoffman	Marlyn Perry
Rosalyn Hollander	Cynthia Rozett
Miriam Korman	Shirley Tatter

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