

Musings



...From The Maine Jewish Museum



NEWS & EVENTS – FALL 2016 EDITION



Welcome To Our Newsletter

Maine is a rare place as we are one of the few “not huge” states with a sizeable Jewish community and a museum to tell our story, too, so it’s only fitting that we now have a regular newsletter to tell the museum’s own story, keep you up-to-date on happenings here and to invite you to participate in any way you can. Thanks for reading & welcome to our first edition!





The Maine Jewish Museum was established in 2008 as a museum of Maine Jewish art, history and culture. It is housed in Etz Chaim Synagogue, a magnificent 19th century building that inspires awe and a depth of emotion upon entering. The synagogue houses a growing, vibrant Jewish congregation. The two organizations maintain separate boards of directors, separate finances, and separate operations.

It has been my great honor to have been president of the museum since its inception. During that time, through a grass roots effort, we managed to raise enough funds to restore the building to its original magnificent condition. We took out the drop ceiling, restored the bricked-over stained glass window, re-installed the original light fixtures, created new handicap-accessible restrooms, installed an elevator, expanded our community room, and created magnificent gardens.

We have become a notable institution on the Portland art scene, boasting spectacular exhibitions in both our viewing areas and booked all the way through 2018. Our works feature artists who are either tied to Judaism or whose work relates to Judaism in some way.

On our second and third floors we focus on the "history" part of our mission. Story boards in the elevator alcove tell the history of the Maine Jewish community. Our third floor has both permanent and rotating exhibitions, along with a lovely dreidl collection.

The Jewish community, the arts community, and the East End community have all been welcoming and supporting of our efforts. Many, many people have entered our building for art openings, musical and dramatic presentations, as well as lectures and panel discussions. We are ranked 39th out of 141 things to do in Portland on Trip Advisor, too!

As outgoing president, I want to thank all of the communities I mentioned for their continuous support and enthusiasm for our efforts. I also want to thank Nancy Davidson, our curator, for her time, energy and knowledge in creating such extraordinary exhibitions. Thanks to our board of directors for their commitment and dedication. And most of all, thanks to Rabbi Gary Berenson, our first Executive Director and current volunteer Executive Director, without whom none of this would ever have happened and without whom I'd have had no one to nag.

The Maine Jewish Museum is a gem, and the richness of our community is greatly enhanced by its presence in our midst.

Best To You All,

Jody Sataloff



For our November/December exhibits, the Maine Jewish Museum is featuring two artists in the Spiegel Gallery/Fineberg Community Room. Our guest curator, Anne Zill, is the curator at the University of New England Gallery in Portland. She will select the art for this exhibition.

The glass artist, Marty Kremer, the first to exhibit at the Maine Jewish Museum, is a new year-round resident of Maine. He is not new to the Portland Art Scene, however, and has exhibited at the Stein Glass Gallery and Dan Kany Glass Gallery.

Glass has been his medium of expression for more than 30 years. He concentrates on creating fused glass vessels of stunning form, color and texture. His mentor is Maestro Lino Tagliapietra; personally, my favorite glass artist!

A recipient of NICHE awards, Marty is nationally known and respected. He exhibits at leading galleries around the country and is part of many art collections.

Second is Margaret Nemantana, a painter, who has been connected to Maine ever since she was a child who attended Camp Tripp Lake. She is now a year-round resident.

Her paintings are abstract landscapes of the mind, infused with the light of Maine's changing seasons and her own "emotional weather." She has an MFA from Goddard College, studied at Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. and spent a Summer

at Tyler School of Art in Rome. Her paintings are in private collections in New York, California, Maine and beyond.

The third major show coming up is a Menorah Exhibition, which will be held in our third floor gallery space. Thanks to our new elevator this part of the museum is a delightful area to visit.

This year we are featuring Roberta Bass' Menorah Collection plus as well as many Maine artists' one-of-a-kind menorahs.

The artists participating will include Catherine Bloom, Reid Brechner, Rush Brown, Camille Davidson, Pat Herrinton, Lin Lisberger, Elizabeth Loudon, Lisa Pierce, Elizabeth Ruskin and Allie Walter.

So what else is happening in the Maine Jewish Museum's arts scene?

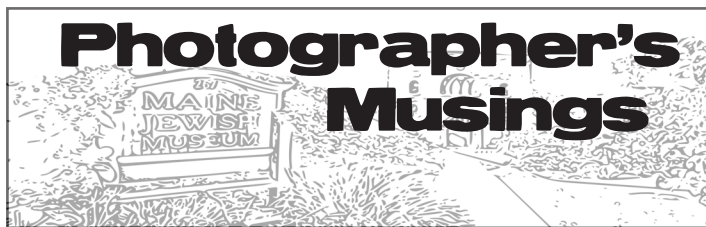
Our 2017 Season will be announced soon. I can let you know that it already promises to be above and beyond, opening with our January/February show, with world famous Neal Welliver.

Please make a date with us at least every two months and bring along friends and neighbors to experience the museum, too.

Finally, I want to thank the art community, art collectors and Maine Jewish Museum for all your support. As they say: "We (really) could not do it without you!" and that is especially true of the generous grant we've received from the Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropy Foundation. Many thanks!

Nancy Davidson

Nancy Davidson
Art Curator.



Growing Up Transgender: One Boy's Story by photographer Jack Montgomery is currently on display in our 3rd floor gallery. We caught up with Jack and his subject at the show's opening earlier this year and this is what he had to say about the show, the photos and the experience:

These images are from a series of photographic portraits of a trans boy -- Fox -- as recorded by me over a period of nine years (ages 9 to 18). It is the longest continuing project I have ever undertaken and it has been very gratifying.

I have had a strong interest in portraiture since I first began photographing seriously in 1993. Since that time I have focused on a variety of communities. I had done some gender related photography in New York in the early 2000's that became a predicate for my interest in documenting Fox's evolution.

This project has been like reading a book because I had no idea how it would turn out. When I first met Fox he was a very anxious kid who rarely smiled. He began his journey at a time when there was limited support and understanding within the community.



Fortunately, he was blessed with loving and accepting parents, a school system that was ready to serve his needs and medical support from informed health care providers. Thus, this project has become a story of affirmation with a happy ending. Fox is now a very well rounded and secure young man who is able to articulate every aspect of his journey. Sadly, not all stories turn out so well. Not all transgender children have

enjoyed the support that has enveloped Fox through these critical years. I hope that the exhibition and related materials may serve as a resource and inspiration for other transgender kids and their families.

My interest in this subject matter has grown since I began the project and a few years ago I became a founding Board member of the Maine Trans Youth Equality Foundation.



While many of these portraits appear very simple on the surface, there is a great deal of information to be found by the inquisitive eye. I have learned a great deal by just sitting with Fox and his mother looking at these photographs and absorbing their insights into what can be seen beneath the surface. I am very grateful to them both for their trust and patience. And also to Fox for his courage in allowing these images to be seen and shared.

These images are now part of an ongoing exhibition at the Maine Jewish Museum. The exhibition is made possible by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission and with the ongoing support of the Maine Trans Youth Equality Foundation, the Maine Jewish Museum and Etz Chaim Synagogue.





Your Maine Jewish Museum is a non-for-profit corporation and is proudly led by:

Jody Sataloff — President
Steve Brinn — Vice President
Beth Tableman — Secretary
Aaron Shapiro — Treasurer

Our Board Members Are:

Gillian Schair
Gary Berenson
Barry Hoffman
Sari Greene
Harris Gleckman
Judy Glickman Lauder
Mickey Friedman
Nancy Ziegler
Ruthie Noble



Maine Jewish Museum **Hours Of Operation:**

Mondays thru Fridays
10 a.m. To 2 p.m.

First Friday Art Walks
5 To 8 p.m.

Sundays
1 To 5 p.m.



The Maine Jewish Museum recently kicked off its 2016 annual fund drive. Thanks to these donors, whose generous contributions have already been received:

Ethlynnne Brickman
Larry and Melinda Whitman
Sidney and Elizabeth Geller
Jacob and Molly Cinamon
Charlie and Ellie Miller in honor of Steve Brinn for his incredible commitment to community
Edith Pagelson
George and Ruthanne Singal
Dr. Martin and Patricia Finkelstein
David and Nancy Brenerman in memory of Saul and Hazel Brenerman
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Marc Hoffman
Mary and Ken Nelson
Phillipe Bloch
Dale and Priscilla Doucette
Edward Linky
Dr. Steven Horowitz and Patricia Ramsay
Elizabeth Ruskin
Judi and Arthur Slotsky

To donate, please send your cheque or contact the museum at the address below. Thank you!

The Maine Jewish Museum
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Portland, Maine 04101
Phone (207) 773-2339
info@mainejewishmuseum.org

MAINE JEWISH MUSEUM

Two Life Views

THROUGH JANUARY 8, 2017

First Friday Art Walk: December 2, 5pm-8pm & January 6, 5pm-8pm

Spiegel Gallery & Fineberg Community Room

Guest Curator: Anne Zill



Untitled, Acrylic on Paper, Margaret Nomentana

MARGARET NOMENTANA makes non objective paintings and mixed media collages. Nomentana says her art making is a form of self-discovery, infused with the light of Maine's changing seasons and her own emotional weather. Her engagement with process is visceral, intense and quite physical. She uses an intuitive but informed and purposeful approach in creating shapes that interact with and play off one another.



Tenement, Kiln-formed Glass, Marty Kremer

MARTY KREMER has studied blown and fused glass for many years. Kremer's focus has always been about craftsmanship, and the "art part" has usually happened when he wasn't looking. He has wanted to see within and through the thick walls of a glass vessel – that has led to an exploration of windows, which are passages as well as destinations.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

2016 MENORAH INVITATIONAL SHOW

Through January 20, 2017

3rd Floor

First Friday Art Walk: December 2, 5pm-8pm & January 6, 5pm-8pm



Featuring six pieces from the private collection of Roberta Bass

Jonathan Adler	Lynn Rae
Brandh Dunham	Karim Rashid
Elizabeth Mears	Unknown Artist

Menorahs created by Artists with a Maine Connection

Catherine Bloom	Lin Lisberger
Reid Brechner	Elizabeth Loudon
Rush Brown	Lisa Pierce
Camille Davidson	Elizabeth Ruskin
Pat Herrington	Allie Walter

Maine Jewish Museum

267 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101 (207) 773-2339

Monday - Friday 10am-2pm + Sundays 1pm - 5pm or by appointment

mainejewishmuseum.org