

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Winnipeg Art Gallery now showing Salvador Dali's 'The Aliyah Suite'

Lithographs offer stunning overview of Israeli history, through eyes of a founder of surrealism

Review by MATT BELLAN

Think of Salvador Dali, and images of the eccentric Spanish artist with the thin, waxed handlebar moustache come to mind.

His haunting "Soft Watches" painting and other eerily lifelike surrealistic images will likely also pop into your head.

But "The Aliyah Suite", 25 Dali lithographs now on display at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, show another side of the genius who lived from 1904 to 1989.

Commissioned by Shorewood Publishers in New York for Israel's 20th anniversary, the collection offers an overview of Israeli history, starting with pioneering farmers and the Holocaust and ending in 1967.

Many of the images in these prints have cartoonlike features, but they're realistic enough to satisfy even the most conservative viewers.

That's in keeping with Dali's evolution from



Salvador Dali, Victory: "A Song of Thanksgiving", 1967. Lithograph on paper.



Salvador Dali, "The Land of Milk and Honey", 1967. Lithograph on paper. Image supplied by WAG.

and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children," Dali says in the text accompanying the next lithograph, quoting Jeremiah 31.15.

The print itself features a seated Rachel, her back facing the viewer, wearing a black shawl. A dead child, eyes closed, lies in front of her, hewn out of a giant slab of rock.

In "The Wailing Wall", Jews pray at the base of the wall, in a narrow alley.

One figure at the left is hunched over, his head leaning against the wall, and everyone wears long robes.

"The Price - 'Bereave'" features a woman with half-closed eyes, an expression of grief in her half-shut eyes.

"Angels of Rebirth", the next work, is more surrealistic, with the bodies of the angels only half-formed, and dots at the left and lower down, to the right, like a cosmic explosion.

In "A Moment in History", David Ben-Gurion reads the Israeli Declaration of Independence on May 5, 1948.

His body and others beside him are only half-formed, but his torso and head are more detailed.

In "Victory: A Song of Thanksgiving", huge, sail-like sheets or "flags" with blue Stars of David dominate the horizon, while a crowd in the foreground raises its hands to a blue sky with white doves.

Don't miss this exhibit. For many viewers, it may be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to witness Dali's stunning representation of the first 20 years of Israeli history.

"The Aliyah Suite" will remain on display until March 19.

his 1920s and 30s surrealism to more traditional subjects after the Second World War.

Dali painted the originals for these lithographs over two years, in gouache and mixed media. He sent them to European printing houses, and 250 sets were printed for commercial distribution.

The set now on display on the WAG's mezzanine, including "gifts" a wide variety of local Jewish and other donors contributed, features "signed artist's proofs".

"Aliyah", the first work the viewer sees after the introductory explanation, features an uplifted head and chest, draped in a blue and white Star of David.

These color prints, alternating between tragic and joyous themes, are often based on biblical quotations.

"A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation

JEWISH FEDERATION OF WINNIPEG



DR. TED LYONS, PRESIDENT OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF WINNIPEG, IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EVE AND HARRY VICKAR COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE JEWISH CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE.

The program has been established by the children of Eve and Harry Vickar to address the problem of poverty in the Jewish community. Many people in our community fail to realize that a significant number of members of our community deal with the challenge of living at or below the poverty level. The Eve and Harry Vickar Community Assistance Program will be a fund that will provide for those in need; its intention is to assist families who are challenged with meeting the necessities of day to day life.

The program, sponsored by the L. Kerry Vickar Charitable Foundation, will provide \$1,000,000 over a twelve-year period. Kerry Vickar, a former Winnipegger, now lives in Florida with his wife Simone. Eric, his wife Susan and their family reside in Winnipeg. Both Kerry and Eric believe that their contribution in honour of their parents will encourage other donors to support services and programs in the community. They also believe that additional resources will be required as the level of need is identified during the first year of the program.

"We are extremely grateful to the Vickar Family for their leadership and generosity," said Rita Margolis, President of Jewish Child & Family Service. "This program will assist many people in the community and will add an additional needed dimension to the work of our agency."

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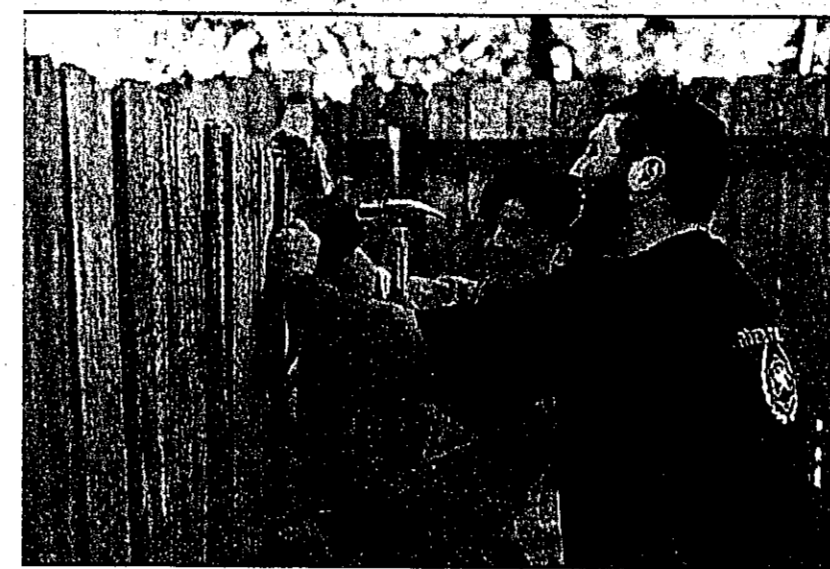
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## U.S. Jewish news/Spanish column



Volunteers Daniel Held of Toronto, with hammer, and Rabbi Elka Abrahamson of Columbus, Ohio repair the flood-damaged fence of a Jewish resident of New Orleans on December 26, 2005. Credit: Larry Luxner/JTA.

### Helping Katrina's victims U.S. Jews answer SOS to help those hurt by devastating hurricane

By LARRY LUXNER  
NEW ORLEANS (JTA) - At the home of a Jewish family in Metairie, La., Rabbi Elka Abrahamson of Columbus, Ohio, hammers nails into a new wooden fence with the help of Daniel Held, an Orthodox Jew from Toronto.

About 15 minutes away, inside the moldy, storm-ravaged Congregation Beth Israel in Lakeview, La., Suzanne Wolk of Washington balances herself on a ladder in what was once the synagogue's library, emptying the shelves of waterlogged history books for eventual disposal in a landfill. At the New Orleans Jewish Community Center, Tamara Rushovich and Adi Rattner - 17-year-old seniors at Baltimore's Pikesville High School - chop vegetables for the JCC's kosher "meals on wheels" program for stranded seniors.

New Orleans put out an SOS for help in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and Jews of various stripes throughout North America - lured by a sense of compassion, responsibility and even adventure - have been answering the call. The volunteer corps grew over Chanukah. Jewish federations, the Reform movement and Chabad-Lubavitch were among those who sponsored volunteers, as did smaller Jewish groups.

### Helping Katrina's victims When tragedy hit Gulf Coast, U.S. Jews quick to contribute

By LARRY LUXNER  
NEW ORLEANS (JTA) - Major Jewish organizations have raised over \$30 million U.S. to house, feed, educate and relocate thousands of victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The biggest chunk of money has come from the United Jewish Communities, which represents 155 Jewish federations and 400 independent communities across North America. As of December 13, UJC said it had collected \$25.5 million U.S. in Katrina disaster relief, of which \$7.9 million U.S. already has been allocated to Jewish and non-Jewish hurricane victims.

The single largest beneficiary of UJC's generosity has been the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans, which received \$4 million U.S. for programs ranging from emergency assistance for individual Jews to general funding for social services. UJC funds also have gone to the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, as well as groups such as Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, to aid 13 food banks and other groups along the storm-ravaged Gulf Coast.

News analysis

## With Palestinian areas in chaos, Washington insists vote must go on

By RON KAMPEAS  
WASHINGTON (JTA) - Just weeks ahead of scheduled legislative elections, the Palestinian Authority is getting a double-barreled message from Washington: Do the vote, and do it right. The Bush administration wants P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas to keep the vote on track for January 25, and to keep the peace so Palestinians can safely reach ballot boxes. Congress wants him to keep Hamas out of the elections as well.

The message-sending doesn't stop in Washington. The international community, embodied by the diplomatic "Quartet" guiding the Middle East peace process - the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia - says a Palestinian government including terrorists would be unacceptable. The rush of warnings reflects widespread concern that Abbas, favored for his relative moderation, is losing control as the Gaza Strip, which Israel evacuated in September, descends into intercommunal violence.

"The Palestinian Authority needs to provide an atmosphere of calm and safety for the citizens of the Gaza Strip, that's important," Sean

McCormack, the State Department spokesman, said January 4. "It is the primary responsibility of any government entity to provide for the welfare of its citizens in terms of the safety. Clearly we don't have that right now in Gaza."

Dennis Ross, the Clinton administration's top envoy to the region, said continued violence against Israel also undermines Abbas' claim that the Palestinian polity is moderating.

"Israel got out of Gaza, but Kassam rockets are still being shot out of Gaza," Ross told JTA. "The impulse is to say, 'What are the Palestinians doing?'"

The elections were originally scheduled for last July but Abbas postponed them, citing similar chaotic conditions. His suggestion last week that he could postpone them again was not welcomed by McCormack.

"We see no reason why those elections should not proceed on January 25," he said. "We believe that the Palestinian Authority should be concentrating on preparations for those elections, so that Palestinian people can vote in an atmosphere that is free from violence or coercion or intimidation."

## Libros en español en la Biblioteca Millennium

Después de tanta desespera, finalmente el pasado 8 de noviembre inauguró la Biblioteca



UN MUNDO EN LA CIUDAD:  
Los eventos de la comunidad judía en Winnipeg  
por ANALÍA SIVAK

Millennium ubicada en el centro de la ciudad. Winnipeg se vistió de fiesta y la noticia fue celebrada por todos los interesados en la cultura. Con 424.000 socios y la expectativa de un millón de visitas por año, la Biblioteca abrió sus puertas y empezó a recibir a los hombres y mujeres que ya recorren sus cuatro extensos pisos los siete días de la semana.

El festejo fue doble para quienes buscan libros en diferentes idiomas. La Biblioteca ofrece una colección de títulos de ficción y no ficción en 28 idiomas; desde español, esloveno y chino, hasta

farsi, japonés y vietnamita. "Como símbolo de una ciudad multicultural, la Biblioteca debe ofrecer opciones para las diferentes comunidades que buscan mantener su idioma y sus costumbres", dijeron los organizadores.

Los interesados en leer libros en español tendrán que subir la gran escalera al lado del inmenso ventanal y llegar hasta el segundo piso para encontrarse con la gran noticia: varios estantes con títulos de todo tipo. Hay para elegir desde diccionarios y manuales de escritura y traducción, hasta novelas, libros de cuentos, antologías de

poesía, manuales de autoayuda y libros de cocina.

Entre las opciones el lector va a descubrir una gran

colección de escritores latinoamericanos: el colombiano Gabriel García Márquez; los argentinos Manuel Puig, Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar, Isidoro Blaisten, Juan José Saer y Abelardo Castillo; los chilenos Pablo Neruda, Isabel Allende, Antonio Skármeta y Jorge Edwards; los mexicanos Octavio Paz y Carlos Fuentes; y tantos otros. También están ahí, esperando al próximo lector, las traducciones al español de novelistas ingleses, portugueses y canadienses.

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