

Maine Jewish Museum



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Portland, ME

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Conscience and Courage: Frances Perkins and Feng Shan Ho Little Known Heroes Who Saved Lives Sunday, April 25, 2021 — 2:00 p.m. EST

Co-sponsored by the Maine Jewish Museum (MJM) and the Michael Klahr Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine (HHRC)

The 90-minute webinar centers on two speakers:

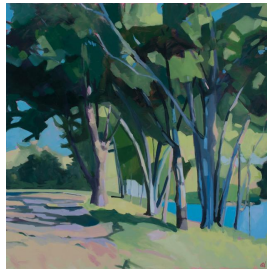
Bat-Ami Zucker, brings extensive scholarly research to her presentation about **Frances Perkins'** courageous—and yet little known—advocacy role for permitting entry to the U.S. of Jewish immigrants escaping the Holocaust in Europe. As the U.S. Secretary of Labor, immigration policy was within her department. However, opposition to Jewish immigration was so strong, that in 1940 President Roosevelt transferred the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization from the Department of Labor to the Department of Justice. **Bat-Ami Zucker** is a Senior Lecturer Emerita at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Her books include *United States Aid to Israel and its Reflection in the New York Times and the Washington Post 1948-1973* (published in 1991) and *In Search of Refuge: Jews and Untied States Consuls in Nazi Germany (1933-1941)* (published in 2000). She estimates that 20 –30,000 Jewish aliens who entered the U.S. between 1933 and 1940 on visitors' permits eventually acquired citizenship, thanks to Perkins' actions allowing such visitors to stay, despite strong State Department policies opposing this.

Manli Ho, an investigative journalist who has spent 15 years researching and documenting the actions of her father, **Dr. Feng Shan Ho**, one of the first foreign diplomats to save Jews from the Holocaust in Nazi-occupied Europe. Ho Feng-Shan was the consul-general in Vienna for the Republic of China, and the architect of a refuge of last resort for some 18,000 Jews in Shanghai. He risked his life and career to save Jews by issuing them visas, disobeying the instruction of his superiors. [See Ho Feng Shan: The "Chinese Schindler" who saved thousands of Jews.] Ho faced daunting obstacles: His home country had been occupied by the Japanese, and his home government was desperate to maintain Sino-German relations. His ingenious strategy involved issuing end destination visas to Shanghai, which required no papers or passports. Ho died in 1997 and his actions were recognized posthumously when the Israeli organization Had Vashem in 2000 awarded him the title "Righteous Among the Nations." There is a memorial plaque dedicated to Dr. Feng Shan Ho at the Jewish Refugees Museum in Shanghai.

Following the speakers' pre-recorded remarks,
the moderator, **Judith Goldstein**, **Executive Director of**

Humanity in Action, will lead a live session which will include speakers responding to questions from the audience.

Details on registration and Zoom access will be provided as soon as we get them.



MAINE JEWISH MUSEUM ART AUCTION

Please join us for The Maine Jewish Museum's ***first ever online art auction*** generously curated by the founders of Barridoff Galleries,

Annette and Rob Elowitch. Rob and Annette are back and better than ever and have gathered a varied and exciting roster of many of Maine's finest artists. Proceeds from the ***MJM Art Auction*** will help financially support the museum's mission of celebrating and honoring the contributions and diversity of Maine's Jewish community. Through exhibits, programming, and dialogue the Museum seeks to build bridges of appreciation and understanding with people of all backgrounds.

We are tremendously excited to have reopened the Museum after the fire last May forced us to close for 9 full months while the building was entirely restored from top to bottom. While we are still limited by COVID-19 regarding the number of people that can visit us in person, through this ***MJM Art Auction***, we can reach all of you virtually.

This year the MJM will continue to proudly present changing art exhibits every six weeks as curated by our wonderful Resident Art Curator Nancy Davidson and our equally wonderful Photography Curator Nanci Kahn, featuring artists with a Jewish affiliation and connection to Maine. We also will feature our permanent historical and cultural collections include Jack Montgomery's Maine Holocaust Survivors, Maine Jewish Summer Camps, The Maine Jewish Hall of Fame Exhibit Presented by Dorothy Suzi Osher in Memory of Alfred Osher, and coming soon, our newest exhibit, Maine Synagogues Past and Present.

Come visit if you can or visit our website (mainejewishmuseum.org)!

But if not, with over 60 artists offering some of their most captivating work, visit us online once the auction begins on the online auction platform Betterworld. The ***MJM Art Auction*** will include pieces from the following artists: Ted Arnold, Chris Beneman, Joan Busing, Lynn Duryea, Rebecca Goodale, Dahlov Ipcar, Paul Heroux, Charlie Hewitt, Todd Webb, Anne Ireland, Henry Isaacs, Juliet Karelsen, Jocelyn Lee, Barbara Sullivan, Judy Glickman Lauder, Nancy Nevergole, Celeste Roberge, Elizabeth Ruskin, Vivien Russe, Natasha Mayers, Lissa Hunter, Mark Wethli, **plus many, many more!**

Preview begins April 18th and auction runs for two weeks from April 25th until May 9th. Details to follow

so stay tuned to our website, Constant Contact and Facebook postings.

Join us for our next exhibition
featuring
Gerry Holzman, Penelope Jones,
& Michelle Hauser

Exhibitions run March 25
through May 7, 2021

The Past is Present
Gerry Holzman - Artist in
Wood
Spiegel Gallery

In the late 1990's, while conducting a personal and intellectual exploration of my long-neglected Eastern European roots, I came across the photographs of Roman Vishniac, a chronicler of Jewish life in pre-World War II Europe. The powerful and provocative photographs in Vishniac's book, *A VANISHED WORLD*, affected me profoundly. I was particularly impressed by the portraits of the various artisans--the blacksmiths, the cobblers, the carpenters--and by the bearded scholars with their long flowing coats and their omnipresent books.

For the past twenty years, I have been recording my response to this extraordinary experience. My responses in wood are unlike anything seen before. In some carvings, I have faithfully copied the individuals portrayed in the various photographic records but have placed them in an entirely different setting. In others, I have extracted the figures from within the raw walnut logs where they have dwelt for centuries. In a few pieces, I have simply presented the viewer with the vague outline of a provocative notion.

While these carvings present a window into a world that disappeared in the 20th century, I like to think my work in the 21st century offers vivid proof of Roman Vishniac's conviction that this vanished world was definitely not a vanquished one. And perhaps, it reinforces an even more important message—"We're still here."



Falling into Place
Penelope Jones
Fineberg Family Community
Room



Penelope Jones embraces architectural structure, surface texture, and color interaction in this exhibition of paintings, drawings, and collages. Her work is inspired by such disparate sources as Ukiyo-e Japanese paintings, boat slip structures, the snaking streams of Maine estuaries, and architectural details from the Alhambra Palace in Spain. She takes great pleasure in precise lines, angular and curved shapes, and spatial ambiguity.

Born and raised in upstate NY, Penelope Jones received a BFA from MECA and an MFA from Cornell University. After a stint living and working in Boston, she moved back to Maine, where she resides and exhibits her work. Since 1992 she has taught visual arts at Cornell University, Bowdoin College, Maine College of Art, University of Southern Maine and SMCC. She has been a part-time lecturer at Bates College for over 20 years.

Meeting Hall Maine **Michelle Hauser**

***Jody S. Sataloff Art &
History Pavilion***

Meeting Hall Maine records for posterity the documentation of hundreds of meeting halls found throughout the state. This

photographic project began in collaboration with Hauser's late husband, Andrew S. Flamm (1967-2018). Hauser has continued on with their shared vision to adhere to centered compositions of frontal, side or back views and to sequence the typology of structures into groups. Grids and pairings invite comparison and also create an abstraction of architectural forms. At some sites three-quarter views of the halls were captured to evoke the experience of place. The exhibition also includes work that appropriates signifiers used in ritual activities taking place inside the meeting halls.

In 1981, Hauser forged lasting ties to Maine at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, leading her to return to Maine to paint, using a former Odd Fellows Hall in Mount Vernon. The hall served as an inspiration. Extending her studio time there was the catalyst for winning a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant. It was where she and Andrew Flamm first met. They went on to open Odd Fellows Art and Antiques that specialized in vernacular photography and the Material Culture of American Fraternal Organizations which in turn sparked their idea for Meeting Hall Maine.

(Meeting Hall Maine is funded in part by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the National Endowment for the Arts.)



Maine Jewish Museum

267 Congress Street

Portland, ME

Hours: Sunday through Friday 12pm-4pm Closed: Saturdays

Mask required.

Please maintain 6 ft distance from one another.

The mission of the Maine Jewish Museum is to honor the contributions and diversity of Maine's Jewish immigrants in the context of the American experience. Through exhibits and programming, the Museum seeks to build bridges of appreciation and understanding with people of all backgrounds.

Join us in celebrating Jewish ART, HISTORY and CULTURE in Maine.



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