

**Meeting of the Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee
Held on Thursday, March 8, 2018
at the Derfner Judaica Museum
5901 Palisade Ave. at the Hebrew Home
Pending Committee Approval**

In Attendance:

Marvin Goodman, CB8 - Chair, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee
Sylvia Alexander, CB - Libraries Committee Member
Susan Chevlowe, Museum Director, Derfner Museum

Committee Members Absent:

Martin Wolpoff, CB8 - Libraries Committee Member

The meeting began at 5:45 PM.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved.

The chair introduced Susan Chevlowe, Museum Director of the Derfner Judaica Museum, who presented us with a history of the current exhibit, entitled "Jerusalem Between Heaven and Earth" and a history of several of the artists whose works are on display in this exhibition. The artists are from various sections of our country, from Mid-Eastern Countries and from Israel. All had visited Jerusalem and drawn inspiration for their artworks from their visits to Jerusalem. A variety of media was used, including acrylic painting on wood. On display are 34 works by 30 artists, all of whose works explore the biennale theme of watershed. In geologic terms, a watershed exams various waterways, including streams and rivers that split and converge. It can be used as a metaphor to help us think about ourselves and the ways we split and converge as individuals and groups. This theme finds its expression in issues as varied as Jewish identity, immigration and refugees, along watershed moments on history. The guest curator who assembles these works from these international artists is Ori Z. Soltes, a guest curator for the Jewish Art Salon. Among the works we were shown, there were sculptural paintings and water-based sound-centered videos of the geological watershed that defines Jerusalem, done by artists Leah Carolene and Jeremy S. Horseman. The painting by Joel Silverstein shows the beach at Coney Island as a reference to biblical Israel and to American Jewish immigrant experiences. Paintings emphasize Jewish history and watershed moments, such as the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. The physical return to modern-day Jerusalem and questions of Jewish-Christian-Muslim coexistence in modern Israel are shown in a variety of artworks. A variety of media are used to display and explain these concepts.

We enjoyed the exhibition and the curatorial talk and tour. The meeting ended at 7:00PM. Our next meeting will be April 12 at 5:30 at the Riverdale Branch Library. We hope to see you there.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marvin Goodman, Chair
Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee