

The Hanukkah menorah through artists' eyes

Like all artists, Rossmoor resident Judith Stein often looks to her own life and experiences for inspiration. Over the years she has turned to the symbol of Hanukkah – the nine-branched menorah – and has painted two delicate menorahs, shown here.

According to legend, after the Temple at Jerusalem was returned to the Israelites following the victory of the Maccabees over Syria, there was only a meager supply of consecrated oil at hand. Only

supposed to last one day, the oil burned for eight. This allowed the ancient Hebrews time to prepare and consecrate new oil for the temple's menorah.

Some see the miracle of the oil as a metaphor for the miraculous survival of the Jewish people through millennia of suffering.

There is a treasured menorah that takes a place of honor in Judith's home. It was given to her by the family of the young man her daughter

married after she moved to Israel a number of years ago. Its design came from Jews living in Germany.

Her daughter, a nurse, had left the family to go to Israel to see if she could help. The government sent her to school to learn Hebrew as well as the country's customs and history.

Judith's late husband was a sculptor, and he too was inspired to create several sculptures of menorahs.

To Judith Stein, the festival of Hanukkah is important to all mankind, for it was the first successful insurrection in history against limitation of religious freedom.

Hanukkah begins this year

at sundown on Friday, Dec. 11, and lasts eight days. Each day another candle is lighted until every branch of the menorah holds a glowing candle. The ninth branch contains the candle that is used to light all the others.

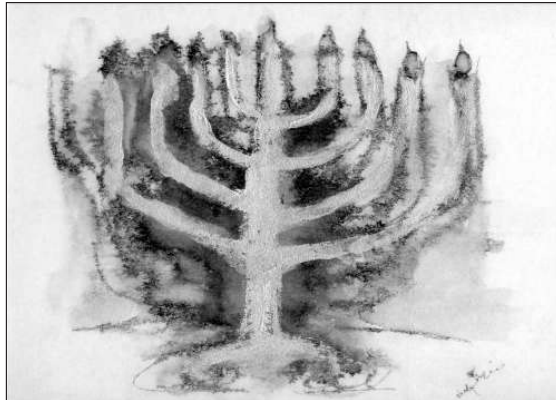
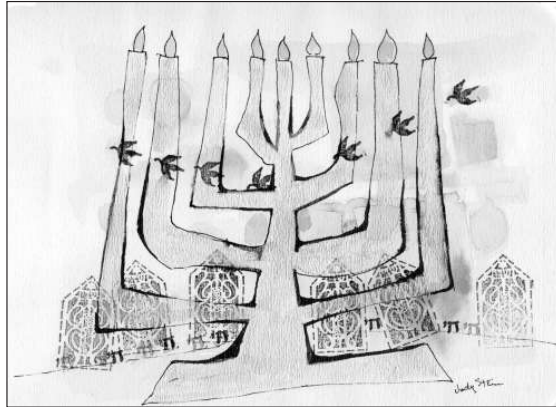
—Myrna Bearse



Judith treasures this menorah, a gift from her Israeli family.



Her late husband, Ralph, sculpted these menorahs



Watercolors of menorahs, painted by Judith.

Looking Back

Five years ago January 2005

Great Decisions, a program provided for the past 51 years by the Foreign Policy Association, celebrated its 25th year at Rossmoor. It was begun by Harold Diamond, who retired this year and turned over leadership to Judith and Norman Perkus, members for more than 11 years.

Rossmoor's Akiko Seitelbach was invited to participate in a symposium on the atomic bomb to be held at Tufts University. She is one of a dwindling number of survivors of the atomic bombs that fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. The symposium was entitled "Hiroshima/Na-

gasaki 2005: Memories and Visions."

15 years ago January 1995

A proposal from Guardian Development, Inc., Rossmoor developer, for adding a Mutual 18 to the community was brought before the Board of Governors at its December meeting. It was in the nature of a feeler. No action took place.

Guardian Development attorney and Rossmoor resident Arthur Phillips stated that the proposal was a preliminary approach which was meant to "sound out the feelings of the community as to whether it would be supportive of the idea."

More than 17 boxes of new toys, plus other refurbished toys, were distributed in the fourth year of the Kiwanis Club's toy drive for the needy. Nearly 200 youngsters had a happier holiday because of the drive. In addition, more than \$3,000 was collected through the generosity of Rossmoor residents.

The Zenith holiday sale, featuring 1995 models, offered a 25-inch console for \$499 and a 46-inch big-screen TV for \$1,799.

20 years ago January 1990

The Board of Governors voted unanimously to end the speed bumps experiment

at Rossmoor. This was in response to an overwhelming wish to remove the bumps, which had been determined by community-wide polling over the past six weeks.

The removal of the bumps should take place when weather conditions permit.

Books ordered for January by the Rossmoor Rental Library included *Fasten Your Seat Belts: The Passionate Life of Bette Davis*, by Lawrence Quirk; *The Bad Place*, by Dean Koontz; and *Vineland* by Thomas Pynchon.

35 years ago January 1975

Rossmoor directors reported that Roscoe S. Drummond,

former editor of the *Christian Science Monitor* and syndicated columnist, would be guest speaker at a dinner honoring the directors. The event was scheduled for March.

One-hundred-twenty members of the Westminster College Chapel Choir performed Handel's *Messiah* on Dec. 12 to a standing-room-only audience at a concert held in the Meeting House.

—Myrna Bearse

