



Bella Meyer Reflects on Her Famous Grandfather, Marc Chagall *By Elissa Kaplan*

Art historian, cultural attaché to the French Embassy in New York, costume and mask creator, and floral designer Bella Meyer will speak about her famous grandfather, Marc Chagall, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's March Featured Program. Ms. Meyer recalls her earliest memory of her grandfather, [He would] "take our fingers as if to understand who we were...he was a very tactile person."

The program, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Sunday, March 29, 2015 at Temple Sinai, 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford, CT 06903, starting at 1:30 PM with refreshments at 1:00 PM. This program is being held in loving memory of Edythe Siegel, z"l, JHS member and former Program, Chair, who was a great lover and collector of art, especially Jewish folk art. Temple Sinai is a co-sponsor of the program.

Throughout her life, Bella Meyer has been immersed in the world of art and has always painted. She was born in Paris and raised in Switzerland. She left Switzerland the day she graduated high school, moving to Jerusalem. After studying art history and obtaining her Ph.D. in medieval art history from the Sorbonne, Ms. Meyer taught art history, wrote numerous academic papers, and lectured about her grandfather Marc Chagall's work. When she was invited to take on responsibilities for the Visual Arts at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, she moved to New York. She got involved with costume design and mask-making for

a number of theatre performances. In addition, she produced her own puppet show productions, including creating the puppets.

According to Ralph Gardner, Jr. in an interview for *The Wall Street Journal*, it was a chance request by some friends to design a huppah for their wedding that led to her current artistic endeavors. A trip to the flower district turned into the revelation that “There's nothing in the world as rich and extraordinary and mysterious as flowers.” Bella Meyer’s passion for beauty and aesthetics, led her to become a floral designer. She founded FleursBELLA, a floral design and décor company, in 2005, focusing her talents on creating floral arrangements much in the way an artist paints.

According to Eva Weller, President of the Jewish Historical Society, “We are indeed fortunate to have such a rare opportunity for our community to be privy to a unique and personal perspective on this world renowned Jewish artist!”

Questions about the program? Contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or email elissa@de-kaplan.com. Check out our website <http://jhsfc-ct.org/history.html>

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.