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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Art at the JCC Presents *Seeking Light: A Survivor's Exhibition* Showcasing Artworks by Local Survivors, Featuring Margaret Singer**

- Opening Reception: Sunday, January 26, 1:00-4:00 pm
- Bronfman Family JCC, 524 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara
- Exhibit on view January 17-April 21, 2020
- Free and open to the public

**Santa Barbara, California (January 6, 2020)** — *Art at the JCC* will host a unique exhibition featuring the art of local Holocaust survivors and refugees at the Jewish Federation's Bronfman Family Jewish Community Center, 524 Chapala Street, from Friday, January 17 through Tuesday, April 21. The exhibition's opening reception and closing dates coincide with Holocaust Remembrance Day and *Yom HaShoah* (Holocaust Memorial Day).

#### **Exhibit description**

*Seeking Light* celebrates the lives of local Holocaust survivors and refugees, taking a fresh and artistic view towards hope and light juxtaposed with the reality of destruction and exile. It features works by notable local survivors and refugees Margaret Singer, Maria Segal, Edith Ostern, Erika Kahn, Mary Freericks, Freddy Caston, Nora Wiedmann, Lev Moross, and Bernhard Penner.

Through their art, these individuals demonstrate their endurance and hope, and teach us about the power of the human spirit in the face of unthinkable evil. A number of these extraordinary survivors have been lifelong professional artists, while others have been art educators, or found their creative talents later in life. Collectively, their works offer insight into the experience of living through one of the darkest chapters in human history.

The exhibition will also include panel displays of poetry and quotes, or "Margaret-isms", from the beloved late survivor Margaret Singer, who is also featured in the highly acclaimed documentary short film *Margaret Singer: Seeking Light* to be shown at the 2020 Santa Barbara International Film Festival. All film festival goers are welcome to view the exhibit during the film festival and encouraged to attend the special opening reception on January 26.

Following her death in May 2019 at the age of 97, *Art at the JCC* was bequeathed her vast body of work including nearly 1,500 pieces.

Margaret was a constant ray of joy for many years at the Bronfman Family Jewish Community Center, and regularly participated in yoga, [Schmooze Room](#), poetry programs, and art exhibitions. She bravely shared her testimony and poetic wisdom as a participant in the Jewish Federation's [Portraits of Survival](#)

[permanent exhibit](#) and programs. She was a prolific artist, poet, and role model for the Jewish, artistic, and general communities. She passed away the way she lived, in grace, peace, and beauty. With honor, *Art at the JCC* and the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara take on the mission of sharing Margaret's words and art with the world.

The *Seeking Light* exhibition will also be integrated into school and group tours of the docent-led *Portraits of Survival: Life Journeys through the Holocaust and Beyond* permanent exhibit and program from January through April 2020, its busiest season.

The exhibition is made possible by the generosity of the Squire Foundation and the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts & Culture.

### **Opening Reception**

During the opening reception on Sunday, January 26, 1:00-4:00 pm, guests will enjoy appetizers, wine, and world-class entertainment from acclaimed local music icon, Bruce Goldish, followed by a welcome and program led by *Portraits of Survival* Director, Ruth Steinberg.

The program will include remarks from Lynn M. Holley, *Art at the JCC* resident curator, and other special guests and artists wishing to honor the survivors. Live music by Mike Witt and Ruth Steinberg will accompany special readings and poetry by Margaret Singer.

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### **About *Art at the JCC***

Art at the JCC is a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara. Through its exhibition and outreach programs, *Art at the JCC* honors and shares the universality of Jewish values, history and culture through various forms of artistic expression. The purpose of *Art at the JCC* is to provide Central Coast and other artists from all disciplines the opportunity to bring their work to the Santa Barbara community. Because art is a universal language, our programs will cross all boundaries of religion, race, gender and age, and strive to maintain communication. Its mission is to promote identification and connectedness to the Jewish community and the community at large. For more information, visit [jewishsantabarbara.org/art-at-the-jcc](http://jewishsantabarbara.org/art-at-the-jcc).

**High resolution images available upon request to [btivey@sbjf.org](mailto:btivey@sbjf.org).**



*Margaret Singer celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday (June 2016)*



