Zohar Naaman

Sewing for Survival

I created this piece of artwork in honor of my great grandmother, Ilana Kirschner, formerly Ilana Barber, native of Ostrava, Czechoslovakia. At my age, she was fighting for survival in Nazi Concentration Camps. My great grandmother was 12 when she was sent to Terezin, 13 when she was moved to Auschwitz, and 14 when she was liberated from Mauthausen. Helped by other women in the camps, Ilana avoided being sent to her death by saying she could sew. She understood that seamstresses were needed in the work side of the camps and so women who could sew were not immediately put to death. In this piece, I tied together the locations of the camps in which Ilana was incarcerated with a needle and thread. The needle and thread are symbolic of the ingenuity that she displayed to ensure her own survival. Throughout history, the Jewish people have survived by being resourceful during difficult times. My great grandmother’s story is one of endurance and is why I am here today. Ilana is now 84 years old and resides in Kfar Saba, Israel.

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Bradley Harrison

A Boat to a New Life

     For My Family Story Project, I built a boat to symbolize the journey to America from around the world.  My ancestry had a difficult path to America. For the Greenbergs, Lustigmans, Nuchmans, Eidelmans, Schertzs, Peckolicks, and Harrisons, there was no easy journey. I was fascinated to research and learn about their struggles in Poland, Russia, and Austria. I was inspired when I heard that some of them escaped in the 1920's to avoid being forced into joining the army, and even to avoid being thrown in jail for selling home-made black bread on the street for money. To go to such lengths to escape, they traveled to France, Argentina and Canada to get connecting ships to come to America. Even through all of these hardships, my ancestors sustained Jewish morals and traditions and passed them on to their children. For some of my family, after one person arrived, they would send for the rest of their family with the little money they had.

     On the side of my boat, I put flags of the countries that each family came from, and the names of that family onto the flags. I felt the best way to represent my family history would be to build a boat symbolizing their inspiring journey to create a better life in America.

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Josh Silber

My Pop-Pop’s Story

This art display of my family story represents the goal my paternal grandfather set for himself, in Poland, during the conclusion of World War II. My grandfather held the belief that education was one of the most important things that he could get. After being stripped of everyone and everything he loved, he knew that no one could take away the fact that he achieved graduation. Later, my grandfather chose to immigrate to America where he could express his Jewish and Non-Jewish opinions freely. This transition from Poland to America let the expansion of his Jewish knowledge set free after being suppressed for fifteen years. I chose to make an apple for this representation of my family’s history because when I visited my grandfather when I was younger, he would cut up apples for me. I placed the apple on top of a book to represent his yearn for an education. The apple has my grandfather’s face carved and painted on the apple to symbolize that this sculpture is what came from his inspirational belief. Sticking out of the book is a page with a quote that my grandfather told me and that, forever, I will keep dear to my heart. Lastly, the book that the apple sits on is titled “My Pop-Pop”, because that's the name I called him.

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Harris Gartenhaus

Let the Buttons Lead the Way

This door covered in buttons represents a new start of life for the family of Lewis Gartenhaus, my grandfather. When he was three years old, his family experienced financial trouble while living in Austria. My grandfather, at the age of three, got a job where he picked up buttons in a suit tailor’s shop. With the help of his job, his family reached their money goal and they were able to move to America. My grandfather’s experience teaches me the values of sacrifice and hard work. If he hadn't had these characteristics than I wouldn't even be here. Grandpa Lewis also gave me the opportunity to live a wonderful Jewish life. From this, I take away that without sacrifice and especially without hard work, no one will be successful. I see these character traits pass down from generation to generation. Both of my parents hold both of these wonderful characteristics. I hope one day I will hold and master both, being able to sacrifice myself for others, and having great work ethic.

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Jeremy Goldstein

Translating Evil

In my family story sculpture, I have created the scale of justice with two contrasting sides. The white side represents the Jews and their purity and holiness, while the black side represents the Nazis and their evil and darkness. Also, on the Jewish part of the scale, there are 6 Jewish stars fading from yellow to blue. Each star represents 1 million Jews that were killed in the Holocaust. The color yellow represents the persecution that the Jews went through during the Holocaust, while the color blue represents the Jewish religion. It fades from yellow to blue because it shows that the Jewish religion will always triumph over persecution. This is also shown in my artwork because I made the Jewish side the heavier side. Additionally, the scale is an important symbol in my family, as my grandfather was a translator for the Nuremberg trials. He assisted the government in convicting the Nazis for their evil acts.

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Elizabeth Galilov

Hosteyee tradition

My artistic display represents an important tradition in my Russian heritage.  My family is from Dagestan,Russia where many Caucasus mountain Jews lived. Before a young man used to propose in the Jewish community of Dagestan, he would send his family to ask permission of the young woman's family.  If the answer to the proposal was "yes," then the real fun would begin! The man would first buy the ring and then buy many presents which would be placed on trays. The trays were then filled with clothing, fruits, jewelry, and other goods to be given to the young bride. Lastly, to celebrate, the young man and his relatives would would go out on the streets with the trays accompanied by live music and party!  This tradition called "Hosteyee",  or "request hand in marriage"  has been carried on for many years and will hopefully be a tradition used by my future husband.

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Rikki Margalit

Always Selfless never Selfish

My sculpture is about my great uncle Steven. He was waiting for his car to be fixed at an auto shop, when a car fell on a worker who was working on another car. My great uncle ran and within seconds, he had picked the car up and saved the man's life. Although my great uncle could have died, he was willing to sacrifice his life for another man who he didn't even know or had ever even encountered in his life. In the Torah one of the concepts is to think of others before yourself, and that's exactly what my great uncle did. He was ready to give up his life without the thought in his mind "I could die also". My great uncle Steven also had trusted that G-d would give him the strength to lift up the car. My sculpture represents my great uncle lifting up the car over the mechanic. The arms holding up the car are purposely big to show my great uncle's strength, not only physically but also showing the amount of selflessness that he had.

Ben Nawy

**Baghdad**

When you hear the word Iraq, you probably don’t think of one of the most Jewish-friendly places. But for my family and many others, back in the early 1900’s, it was a totally different story. In fact, going back into history, the Jewish population in Baghdad was one of the longest living and thriving Jewish populations. The first Jew, Abraham, lived in the Baghdad area. In addition, the Talmud was written there. They had many traditions that aren't very much known today. In my PowerPoint, I will show some of these customs. From the food they ate, to their customs and traditional housing, it will all be displayed. Also, I will talk about why they left and where they went from Babylonia. The traditions I put in are from 1910 to 1930, the period of time my great grandparents were there. I feel it is important to know your family history, and I hope that through this PowerPoint, you can see what their lives were like back then.

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Benny Klein

Doing what's right

This theatrical production represents how my grandfather stood up for African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement. My grandfather, Jeffery Klein, while in college saw that what was going on during the time was wrong and joined an organization called C.O.R.E.- Congress On Racial Equality. When he signed up, he made it clear that he didn't want to sit down and do nothing. He wanted to actually fight for justice. His job was to organize rent strikes against the landlords who didn't pay for the places they were renting out to African Americans. My grandfather would collect the rent money from the African American tenants and only give the money to the landlord once he had paid for the condition of the houses. When seeing these houses first person, my grandfather knew that what he was doing was right. He told me, "There is a right and a wrong, and all this is wrong. I didn't think it was noble, I just knew it was right."

I think my grandfather shows a great example the Jewish value of seeking justice. There is even a biblical commandment that means run after justice- "צדק צדק תרדוף" and my grandfather definitely ran after justice. What I find amazing about this story is that my grandfather didn't do what he did to be recognized or be given an award. He did what he did because it was the right thing to do.

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Evyatar Singerman

Freedom Tree

My artistic display symbolizes my family’s transition to a new world, and the values that they have carried with them throughout their journey. I chose a tree for the center of my project because it represents a family tree and family is the most important thing in my life. In addition to a tree representing "family," it also represents nature. Being outside and in nature is important to me on many levels because my grandparents on both sides continue to stay active outdoors. Additionally, the paintings of Russia, Europe and the United States represent how my family has immigrated to the US in search of respite from persecution.  America has acted as a home where my family can identify themselves as religious Jews with Jewish values.  Lastly, the words of the *shema* on the roots of the tree embody my commitment to Torah, prayer and Jewish values, which have been passed down through the generations.

Jonathan Arking

The American Torah

For this plaster gauze Sephardic Torah I created a family tree on the inside, and an American flag on the outside. I created a Sephardic Torah because I am Sephardic, with family from both Syria and Turkey. I read Torah at my synagogue with the Sephardic trope, or tune. Being Sephardic is an integral part of who I am as a person and as a Jew. On the inside, underneath where I have written לדר ודר- from generation to generation, I have created a family tree. I am here today because of the people who came before me, whom I have learned from, and even from my ancestors whom I was not fortunate enough to meet. My ancestors have shaped my life so that I am immersed in Judaism and its values. Next, I have painted the outside of my Torah as an American Flag. I have done so because I am American, as is almost my entire family, and I have been fortunate enough to live here all my life. I am a third generation American, having all but one of my grandparents born in America, and enjoy living here and being able to freely express and practice my Judaism. Finally, this Torah truly incorporates all of who I am as an individual, and a part of the Jewish nation into one piece of artwork.

Drew Rosen

March of a Lifetime

My bridge represents life and survival. After his entire family had been murdered by the Nazis, my great uncle Morris Rosen was sent on a death march through Remagen, Germany in 1945. With only a t-shirt and shorts, in freezing cold temperatures, he was forced to walk with thousands of Jewish prisoners across this bridge.

This model bridge symbolizes that our family never gives up and that we have held strong to our Jewish faith, even in times of pain and struggle. My great uncle has taught me to have a strong faith in Judaism and God and inspires me by him going to daily minyan everyday.

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Zach Charapp

The flag of my Heritage

My flag display is portraying all of my roots, particularly my American roots. My flag is a dominantly American Flag, with Austrian, Hungarian and Jewish roots. Even though our family has been in America for a century plus, I cannot forget my family’s European start. This flag is significant to me because it represents how much I love this country and how my family does too. My flag display also contains my family tree extending for as long as I could trace. My relative Aaron Charapp came here in 1912 and a few years later enlisted to the army in the country he adored so much. This picture of the enlistment form for Aaron Charapp represents a true love of this country and the freedom that it has provided me and my family.

Zach Vaday

*My National Anthem*

My family story presentation is a slideshow showing pictures that relate to the five countries that make up who I am. These pictures include flags of the countries, landscape, and family that lived in each country. Along with the pictures, there is background music of me playing part of the national anthems of these countries on the trumpet. I find this project to really represent me because my diversity makes up much of who I am, and I can show this through visuals as well as through music. Music also makes up who I am. I love both listening and producing music, so I figured what better way to incorporate music into a project like this than play bits of each country’s music as one short anthem: my anthem.

Included in my diversity is my Jewish identity. I am American, Filipino, Paraguayan, Yemeni, and Israeli all at the same time. My dad’s side is Jewish, but my mom converted to Judaism. My mom’s parents are both 100% Filipino, making me 50% Filipino. My dad’s mom is Paraguayan, and my dad’s dad is Yemeni, which makes me 25% Paraguayan and 25% Yemeni. In addition to all this, I was born in Israel as well. Therefore, Judaism means a lot to me, and I am proud to be Jewish.

Eitan Murinson

The Special Guests

Judaism is essential to my being, and music is essential to my Judaism. At the young age of four, my career in piano began. My connection to music, however began long before my birth. My family is a very musical family, and every member plays a different instrument. My Ima has played instruments such as the violin, the cello, the mandolin, and the piano. My sister plays the clarinet and the violin, while I play the piano and sing. My father plays guitar. I believe that throughout my family’s history, music has been an anchor tying each member to their Judaism. My presentation consists of family members and their connection to Judaism. I will also be performing two pieces of music. The first piece was one of the biggest hits in the year 1908.I chose to do a song from 1908 because my great-great grandparents, were avid musicians during this time period, and actually performed in Vaudeville. The second number is a song that I hold close to my heart. When I was a young child, my parents formed a band with whom they would perform at various Jewish venues including: retirement homes, preschools, and synagogues. After various changes were made to the band’s name, the final decision was to name the band “The Special Guests”. This name reflected the character of the band as ‘special guest’ musicians were frequently invited to perform with the core trio of mandolin/violin, guitar, and acoustic bass.I really admire how this band dedicated much of their spare time towards the benefit of Jewish people throughout the community. I hope to enlighten and give hope to Jews all around the world through the “universal language” of music.

Meira Kidorf

The Kidorf Daily News

This collection of newspaper articles tells the story of my family. The roots of my family tree extend from the villages of Poland up to the Ukraine. The articles represent a story of Jews finding comfort with each other and seeking safety in America and Canada. Their love of Jewish practice, morals, and culture flows through the generations. They were tanners and shochets, librarians and nurses, psychologists and hematologists, pharmacists and professional boxers, secular Jews and tzaddikim. Most of these remarkable people have influenced my life in ways that I am only beginning to understand. This is my family and my DNA. They are me.

Jaime Benhamou

Developing My Jewish Identity

My artistic display is a circular timeline that signifies how my family's Jewish history has evolved from my parents to me. My father was raised in a religious home while my mother had little contact with her Jewish beliefs. Up until two years ago, I was raised much like my mother. I knew little about Jewish history and my family's Jewish connection. My sister and I are beginning to return Jewish tradition to my family, however, by attending Beth Tfiloh.  The stories and quotes on my display are representative of this journey and Jewish evolution.

**David Dixon**

**Geronimo**

My Parachuting sculpture tells the story of my great grandfather, Isaac Shapiro. My great grandpa Isaac was 16 when Nazis occupied Minsk, Belarus in June of 1941. He was put in a ghetto with his family and others because they were Jewish. Not long after that, his family was killed by the Nazis. Fortunately my great grandpa Isaac escaped the Ghetto and joined the Red Army by changing his age from 16 to 18. He then became a paratrooper. His mission was to parachute into Poland in the middle of a warzone. Unfortunately, he crashed into a tree and parachute tangled badly, leaving him unconscious and upside down. Not long after he had crashed a grenade blew up next to him causing him to go deaf. Eventually he got a hearing aid, but sadly could still barely hear for his life. My great grandfather experienced tremendous persecution in Belarus during the Holocaust. He survived, and raised his family Jewish. We enjoy the freedom of religion we have today because of his sacrifice.

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Rivi Goloskov

Fighting for Judaism

My Great-Grandfather, Mickey Goloskov, fought in Battle of the Bulge in WWII which was one of the deadliest battles in the war and left few soldiers standing. While serving overseas, he became a photographer and took pictures of the places the soldiers went, documenting their lives in pictures to send to the regiment newspaper. As a soldier in WWII, he was especially praised for his services through letters from the president, but it was extremely hard to keep a Jewish identity. During his experience as a soldier, he would keep in touch with his family, updating them about what was going on in his life. After the war ended, my Great-Grandfather made a scrapbook with the postcards and pictures that he and his family kept. One of the postcards read “Went to Synagogue this morning and prayed for the first time with Tefillin.” This quote means a lot to me because it shows that he was trying to become a better Jew during the war where Jews were being persecuted because of their religion. My collage shows my grandfather with the pictures he took that show the hardships of a Jew in that time, letters from the President, and the postcards telling his family how he kept his Jewish identity.

Max Gordon

Baltimore’s Rabbi

The presentation of my family history is a replica of the Lloyd Street Synagogue. My project focused on recreating the front of the synagogue. I chose to recreate the façade of the synagogue because inside that building is where my family started a new chapter of their history, the Baltimore chapter.  My great, great, great grandfather, Rabbi Avram Nachman Schwartz was the head of the synagogue in the early 1900s when the synagogue was in its prime. He became Rabbi after he and his family immigrated to the U.S.A.  In addition to being the head rabbi at Lloyd Street, Rabbi Schwartz also cofounded the Talmudic Academy, an orthodox jewish day school for boys. While my great grandfather was busy founding T.A., my great grandmother used her influence to help found Bais Yakov, an orthodox jewish day school for girls. These two important figures in my family provided me with the inspiration to recreate the front of the Lloyd street synagogue.

Jacob Brenner

Journey Across Three Countries: A Musical Slideshow

My musical performance and unique slideshow encompasses the life of my late great-grandmother Adela Russel. In the slideshow, pictures of her from all different times in her life are showing. The music playing is a piece called “Backe Backe Kuchen,” a nursery rhyme from when my great-grandmother lived in Germany. She used to sing it in Germany, and I used to hear the song on the toddler show *Baby Einstein*. When my parents saw it on the television show, they asked my great-grandmother if she knew it. When my parents started singing the song, my great-grandmother joined in with them. “Backe Backe Kuchen” symbolizes my great-grandmother’s German heritage. Unfortunately, the Nazis drove her and her husband out of Germany and she had to move to England, but she never forgot that she was a German Jew and no one could ever take that away from her. She then moved to the United States and still kept her Judaism. I was inspired by her deep connection to Judaism throughout her life and that the Nazis weren't able to deprive her of her values. Even though she escaped from Germany before the war started, the Nazis could have physically or emotionally tortured her and her husband. Luckily, they were unscathed and were able to live happy lives. Her husband’s name was Heinz, but he changed it to Ronny in England.

Josh Fein

Acquiring My Silver Dreidel

My silver dreidel represents my family trip to Israel in the year 2009. Throughout this trip I visited different places that each symbolized an important moment in Jewish history. One of these places was Yad Vashem, which is the Holocaust museum in Israel. Even though none of my ancestors were in the Holocaust, it was still amazing to relive and connect with my Jewish past. As we were leaving the museum, my father gave each of the children in my family a little silver dreidel. The dreidel in ancient Jewish history started as a symbol of the Jews learning Torah in secret. When the Syrian-Greeks came to inspect that Judaism was not being followed, the Jews would hide their Torahs and play dreidel. Now that the Jewish people can learn Torah freely, the dreidel has become a toy that children spin on Chanukah. I still have this dreidel in my room, and every time I look at the dreidel it reminds me of my unforgettable trip to Israel, the symbolism of being able to practice Judaism openly and freely, and the unity of my extended family.

Joshua Cohen

The Fight for Freedom

This original piece of music is significant to my family for many reasons. The song

represents the lives of many of my great grandfathers during World War II. My great

grandfathers fought in Europe, North Africa, Australia, and for a bit in Pearl Harbor before it was

attacked. This piece shows a part of my family's history through music. My great grandfathers

were also excellent people who fought for freedom and liberty for future Jewish generations.

The song starts at a moderate tempo which represents my them living their normal lives. As the

piece progresses it starts to sound ominous signifying that the war is coming. Than the music

becomes frantic signifying the actual war. Lastly, the music slows down to its original pace

showing that my great-grandparents tried to settle back into their original lives.

Yael Seaman

The Sound of Music

My family has loved music for about 5 or more generations, so I've decided to make a video including 3 different generations, singing songs from my great-great grandmother to new songs that we have made a tradition.

Even though some of these songs aren't Jewish songs, they have brought us to love all music, whether it be holiday music or just some random silly song we heard on the radio, it brings us together as a family, and as Jewish people.

When we sing these songs by ourselves or together, we feel connected, like there is a hoop around us, that binds us together as a family, as a people, as part of a lifestyle. I hope my family will always be connected by our love of music, and that I will be able to keep our traditions alive.

Matthew Lubman

The Tradition Baker.

My family story project tells the story of my grand and great-grandparents' religious practices in secret in Belarus during the former Soviet Union. Every Friday and Passover my grandma and her mother would walk an hour to get to their family friend's house for secret Shabbat prayer and Shabbat dinner. Before dinner they would bake challah and matzah in secret in a traditional Russian oven. This is important to me and my family because even though they were harshly oppressed, they tried to keep as many religious practices as possible. It is ironic that a typical Russian wood burning oven kept their tradition alive. My family story project is made of a wood base and brick exterior and a wood burning interior. It has rolls of challah together with matzah and family photos on the inside. This project shows that no matter how bad it was for my ancestors, they never gave up their Jewish faith. I am now blessed with the ability to practice Judaism freely without the fear of persecution or death.

Justin Tepper

St. Thomas a place for family and becoming a Jewish adult

The project that I made is unique for my family and me, because I reconstructed the synagogue where I had my Bar mitzvah.  My Bar mitzvah was in the St. Thomas synagogue on the Virgin Islands.  The reason I made the Synagogue is because it's the oldest synagogue in the Western Hemisphere made in 1833 and the coolest one that I have ever gone to.  By this being the oldest synagogue on the Western Hemisphere it connects my family history with the Jews from hundreds of years ago.  Also, since it was my Bar Mitzvah all of my family was there to celebrate and have fun. By reconstructing the synagogue I will always remember becoming a man and having my family with me to witness this event.  When I have children of my own I will have them get bar or bat mitzvahed at this synagogue and when they have children their children will get their bar or bat mitzvah there and it will keep on going and going on for centuries.

Gabrielle Goldman

A Torah Rescue

My model represents Torahs being taken on a ship to Israel and America. My great grandfather, a Holocaust survivor, rescued over two hundred Torahs from a priest who was keeping them safe during the war. He was able to send almost all of them to Israel but when his family immigrated to America he took five torahs with him and sent them to various Jewish synagogues. Since the time when the first Torah was given at Mt. Sinai, the Jewish people have used the Torah as a guide for their lives. This is significant to my family because we have been able to carry on the tradition of learning Torah by celebrating Shabbat, and my siblings and I attending a Jewish school. My grandfather took the value of being Jewish and ensured that it remained in the family by telling all his stories to my grandmother who therefore wrote a book with all his memories. Even though we have different ways of practicing Judaism throughout the family, we are all united by one main element -the Torah.

Tali Burman

A cattle car on a bumpy road

Throughout my family’s life, living has always been rough, like a cattle car always on a steep bumpy road. My model of the cattle car on a steep bumpy road has many meanings. The significance of the cattle car is that at a very young age, my grandma Rosa, had to escape World War II with her mother and grandmother on a cattle car, to Siberia, just barely struggling for her life. Surrounding the cattle car is a band of Magen Davids, which represents my family’s strong religious beliefs and values. It portrays my family’s determination to hold fast to our religion, no matter where our cattle car took us. Additionally, the cattle care symbolizes my family’s struggle- One difficulty that my family has had to struggle with is many unfortunate events in a short amount of time. A prime example of someone who struggled a lot in our family is my Grandma Rose, who lost her father at the age of 3 to war, is a mother of a special needs child and lost her husband recently. This model, made of plaster, wood, foam, pebbles, seasonal trees and mechanical doors brings alive the struggles and challenges of my family up until this point.

Jack Larson

My Woven Tree

My tree reflects the military history and the history of engineering in my family. The layered wire symbolizes how my family has been shaped by the work of earlier generations. The reason that the younger people are closer to the top of the tree is because the people that came before us are our roots and they paved the road ahead of us; we also grow and thrive off of what earlier generations had done. The wire also represents the engineering background of my family, as my grandpa was a boiler engineer and my uncle is an electrical engineer. I chose wire as my material, as it evokes images of barbed wire, and thus represents the military. My grandfather worked on the boilers in the navy ships, and my father is in the Coast Guard. My tree symbolizes the roots that are growing from day to day. Both of my parents converted to Judaism, so in a way they started their roots over again while continuing the roots they had before.

Ryan Ross

The Song of Israel

My original song is about my grandfather’s experiences going from Israel not being a state to Israel being declared a state in 1948. The song starts out really slow to resemble the hardship that Jews had to suffer without a homeland. Prior to1948, the Jews did not have place to call home or feel safe in. When Israel became a Jewish state my grandfather, Moe Ross, remembered that there was a rally. This was one of his greatest memories. My song, therefore, becomes happier and more vibrant towards the end of the song. This song is important to my family and me because my grandfather did not have a place to call home in a religious aspect. I remember the happiness in his voice when he talked to me about the rally they had in Quebec, celebrating the State of Israel. My grandfather will never forget that memory. My goal of this song is to make you feel like you are in my grandfather’s shoes - to feel the struggle and then feel the happiness. When the song is nearing the end you feel like you want to get up and dance. Additionally, the voices in the song are meant to represent the united voice of the Jewish people as a nation, who can pray together and who contribute to good of the country. My song represents my connection to Israel.

**The Observant Tailor**

**By: Elana Spern**

This sewing machine symbolizes the sewing machine that my great-great grandfather, Shlomo, used when he moved from Poland to New York in 1915. My great-great grandfather was a tailor by trade and would carry his portable sewing machine from job to job. Since he was an Orthodox Jew, however, and observed the Sabbath, he would be fired every Shabbat afternoon when he asked to leave early for the Sabbath. By owning his own portable sewing machine, Shlomo found it easier to find new work the following week. This project is important to me because it shows that he didn't abandon his faith and religious practice in the face of obstacles. All Shlomo was trying to do provide for his family and he didn't allow some setbacks to get in his way. I am blessed to live in the United States, where it is illegal to fire someone based on their religious beliefs.

GUY MEITAL

A ONCE VISIONARY IDEA COMING TO LIFE

Can you imagine a long journey through a choppy ocean on a crowded and old boat? The boat I built is a reproduction of the same ship in which my grandfather traveled on in the year 1940. His journey started all the way from Romania and ended in Haifa, Israel. The ship was named The Zakaria, and it was able to squeeze in 2,385 people on board. After traveling the long journey being cramped and uncomfortable, my grandfather and the other passengers were taken and put in jail until they received a permit. The ship which I made was built from pieces of wood which later were covered in paper mache and then painted. If not for this ship and this journey, my family would have not been created and able to flourish. This ship led to the marriage of grandparents which eventually lead to the creation of me. Israel is a big part in my history and what my family cares about. If not for my grandpa we would have never had Israel as a part of our story. My grandparents still live there and care about the land. This ship and its history symbolize that Israel is a part of the world and a part of me.

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Menachem Price

Liberty, Freedom, and Justice

I chose to depict the Red Sea drowning the Nazis because I want to draw parallels between both periods of Jewish history. The Jews in ancient times escaped Egypt before they were permanently trapped there forever, and my great grandfather escaped Germany before it was too late and started a family in America. The two events ended similarly in that both enemy nations were vanquished by G-d’s might. In Germany it would have been easier for my great grandfather to abandon Judaism, since he was not openly Jewish. He held faithful to his religion, however, and decided to raise his children Jewish in America. Although my grandparents were Reform Jews and brought my mother up that way, my great grandpa taught my mother about Orthodox Judaism and when she was married she started observing the Torah and keeping the Mitzvoth. My family, to this day, practices Orthodox Judaism. While both the Egyptians and the Nazis sought to destroy the Jewish people, they have survived and me being here today is proof of their failure.

Chanan Oshry

**The Chanukah Tree**

This 800 piece family tree is symbolic of both my ancestors as well as the important family traditions that began surrounding Chanukah. My grandmother’s grandfather, Grandpa Jack, bought a wonderful tradition of a Chanukah party over from Europe. Grandpa Jack together with his wife, Grandma Leah, hosted the party in their apartment. After they passed away Grandpa Irving and Grandma Blanche host the parties in NYC. Every year the whole extended family traveled to New York to celebrate Chanukah together. After Grandpa Irving and Grandma Blanche passed away the yearly tradition ended but the memories lasted. The Lego bricks that make up this Chanukah Tree are particularly important because my father loves Lego and passed that love to me.

(The pictures on the branches are in order of generation and the order of lighting the Chanukiah on Chanukah starting with Grandpa Jack and Grandma Leah (last branch on the right). To the left is a picture of Grandpa Irving and Grandma Blanche. The next picture is of Grandpa Irving and Grandma Blanche’s children: Uncle Mickey, Uncle Lenny, Aunt Suki, and Grandma Judy. The next one is Grandma Judy children: Uncle David, Aunt Leah, Aunt Rachel, and Noah (my father). The next picture is Aunt Leah and her husband Uncle Greg. The next picture is of Aunt Rachel and her family. The next picture is a picture of My parents, brother (Yitzhak), sister (Naomi), and me. The last picture is of my siblings and I)

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Grace Stulman

A Chronicle of Time

This wooden model of a מחזור (prayer book for Rosh Hashanah) chronicles the births, marriages, and deaths on my family tree. My great-grandmother Bertha Landsberg (born Seltzer) and my grandmother Irma Stulman (born Landsberg) recorded important family dates in the מחזור showing how we connect the base of our lives to Jewish values, beliefs and traditions. All of my grandparents have passed. My parents know very little about them and their stories. My aunt (Lynn Diane Wolf) is the oldest person in my family at only 68, and she is the only one who still possesses the stories of my family. I am creating this in order to pass down my family's story and legacy to future generations who would not have access to this information otherwise. My cousin, mom, aunt, and grandmother all carried the original prayer book down the aisle at their own weddings. My great-grandmother even wrote a note to my grandmother to have my cousin use it in her wedding. Through this replica of this מחזור I hope to show how family and Jewish values together are extremely important to me and all my other family members.

Jason Straus

Train to Freedom

In my Train car, I have depicted some of the most important parts of my family’s history and our travels. My grandparents have originated from many places, including Germany, Russia, and Poland. My piece is modeled after a train car that was used in the Kinder Transport, which my paternal grandmother escaped Nazi Germany on. She had to escape without her parents, who were taken to concentration camps, and killed. My art work itself is comprised of foam boards which I manipulated into the shape of a train. Then, I covered the shape with strong plaster gauze, symbolizing the strong exterior the Jews of Nazi Germany had to maintain. Third, I spray painted the cars black, exemplifying the dark road the Jews travelled to escape Nazi Germany. After that, I placed the train cars on a wooden base which was covered with tissue paper. Finally, I placed a map on the base in front of the train with pushpins, showing where my family travelled from to get to America.

Alex Goldstein

                        My Family’s Thanksgiving Tradition

This clay sculpture of a turkey represents what has been a tradition in my family for over 30 years. The Turkey Trot is a run that takes place early Thanksgiving morning. The*Tzedakah* that people have donated goes to people with cancer and mostly for Cron's disease and Colitis. The reason my grandparents have organized this run every year is because my grandpa was diagnosed with Cron’s disease. After suffering for quite some time, he was fortunately cured a couple of years ago after many treatments and surgeries. My grandparents hope that through the Turkey Trot, they can help others find the cures and treatments necessary to comfort them.

My artwork is a replica of the Turkey Trot symbol of 2014 and the bottom contains the numbers of years that the Turkey Trot has been around. Even though 2014 was the last year that my grandparents organized the run, they will continue to pass along to me the value of *chesed*and giving*tzedakah*.

**Escape for the Future**

**By Jacob Cohen**

This wood-burning project represents my great-grandfather’s journey from Poland to America during World War II.

The train is a representation of how he traveled from Poland to France via train. The boat represents his journey leaving France to the United States and the multicolored flags symbolize countries of my great grandfather’s journey.

It is clever that my great-grandfather was able to remain in France at the same time that other refugees were deported or sent to jail. He enlisted in the French army and his job was to tailor the decoration on collars for officers; this kept him off the fighting front and saved his life. My great-grandfather worked as a tailor in New York City after he came to America. I am extremely lucky to have had a relationship with my great-grandfather, a strong and brave Holocaust survivor. In January of 2008, he died at the age of 98. I was seven years old.

Jacob Rapkin

My **Wood Burned Ship**

My wood burning ship is all about my great-great grandparents’ journey from Riga to Baltimore in the summer of 1907. I created a model of the North German Lloyd Lines ship in order to represent the struggles they endured to escape the pogroms of Russia. My boat is unique because it is wood burned. Wood burning is a very difficult process. I took a soldering iron and carved out the lines in the wood to make it look like a boat.

My boat not only symbolizes my family’s story, but it symbolizes the freedom and liberty of Judaism in the United States. My family had to struggle to escape the Pogroms and persecution of Russia, but now can practice Judaism freely and openly.

Hailey Grutman

Sailing Into the Future

My project is a visual aid to help you travel from my family’s dark past to their exhilarating future. The side that is representing the past has a picture of the town in Germany including my cousin’s old synagogue that he saw burned during kristallnacht. There are flames made from tissue paper surrounding the photograph. There is also a foam bed that is able to be moved up to reveal the boy hiding underneath. At just 8 years old, my cousin hid under his bed when the Nazis came into his house. He was never found by them and was able to escape on a boat to the United States with his parents. As you look at the second side of my project you see a boat made of cardboard that is sailing out of the past and into his new life that will be discovered in America. My cousin and his family made the front cover of the New York Times after their journey overseas and an exact copy of it is displayed on the future side of my project. I made the water stand out with waves of tissue paper because water symbolizes transformation and rebirth. There is also the Statue of Liberty made of wooden pieces and paper mâché because they docked in the New York Harbor. My project really connects my family’s history to Judaism because they were almost killed for being Jewish. They were some of the lucky people that escaped from Nazi Germany. Most importantly my family was not scared away from Judaism; they continue our heritage of being Jewish.

**Joseph La Fiandra**

**One Boat, Two Stories**

This digital collage has significance to my family and culture because it shows where the roots of my family come from. My great-grandfather Giuseppe La Fiandra came over to the U.S on the S.S. Patria in 1923 from Naples Italy. 17 years later the Patria was used to transport Holocaust refugees from Palestine to [Mauritius](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauritius)after being denied entry to Haifa. On November 5, 1940 the Patria was sabotaged by the pro-Zionist organization the Haganah while trying to disable the ship from deporting the refugees. A man named Martin I. Strauss, who was a refugee himself from Nazi Germany, was currently in the Haifa Naval academy. He and his dorm mate went down to the harbor to help rescue the passengers on the boat from the water. 30 years later Martin Strauss was an agent for the Jewish Social Service Agency in Washington D.C while my grandfather was the president of the Agency. For years Martin Strauss rescued hundreds of Jewish families from Soviet Russia. He would always share his experience with the families he rescued by always going to the airport to welcome them to the U.S, the same thing that his aunt did for his family years earlier when they immigrated from Palestine.

On the right side of the collage are documents related to my great-grandfather Guiseppe La Fiandra. Both of them have a major significance to monumental occasions in his life. On the top right, you see his name on the passenger list when he sailed aboard the S.S Patria from Naples, Italy to the United States in 1923. Below the Passenger list is his petition for naturalization to become a citizen of the United States in 1967. On the left side of the collage are documents related to Martin Strauss. Both of the documents are from when he still lived in Germany. On the center-left is a document that nullified Strauss’ German citizenship because he was Jew. On the far-left side is Strauss’ passport that he used when he migrated from Germany to Palestine aboard the SS Jerusalem.