

RESTORED MURAL REVEALED!

“Revel and Reveal,” a long-anticipated and joyous event celebrating the community’s Lost Mural, was held at the synagogue at the end of June. The donor recognition program began with a number of tributes to those who spearheaded the restoration project and culminated in the unveiling of the restored mural, lost no more.

Former Governor of Vermont Madeleine May Kunin was honored for her leadership and guidance throughout the mural’s journey. Aaron Goldberg and Jeff Potash, co-founders of the Lost Mural Project, were also honored and presented with a commemorative gift. Among the speakers in attendance were Congressman Peter Welch and Executive Director of the Vermont Arts Council Karen Mittelman.

Joshua Perelman, Chief Curator of the National Museum of American Jewish History offered a tribute via video, and written messages from Ben Doyle, President of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and H.E. Audra Plepyte, Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, appeared in the program. The event was livestreamed.

Ben Doyle stated, “The Lost Mural at Ohavi Zedek not only exemplifies the rich history of creativity and resilience in Burlington’s Jewish Community, it inspires all of us to remember that the Vermont identity is dynamic and diverse. By preserving this cultural treasure, we also preserve the opportunity to have a more expansive conversation about the Vermont identity and what it means to be a Vermonter.”

Later in the evening the community was invited to attend an in-person musical celebration sponsored by the Lost Mural Project and Friends of the Lost Mural that featured Vermont’s Nisht Geferlach Klezmer Band, providing a delightful hour of Yiddish music, toe tapping, hand clapping and lively dancing.

As reported in the June 22-29 issue of Seven Days, “the next phase is educating the public by sharing the mural as widely as possible, with tours at the synagogue beginning this summer. An exhibit that documents the restoration project with photos, time-lapse video and text is planned. The Lost Mural Project’s educational mission hopes to showcase artworks from different immigrant cultures to highlight their commonalities and to start a lecture series focused on the immigrant experience, with online, mobile and on-site content. Aaron said, “It is our fervent hope that the Lost Mural will continue to shine as symbol of our community’s history.”

The Seven Days link about the Lost Mural, with an embedded video in the article about the move of the mural, is located here:

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/vermont/burlingtons-lost-mural-is-restored-to-its-original-glory/Content?oid=35853053>

SEE PHOTOS ON TWO PAGES BELOW



