



Vivian R. Jacobson

Author, Lecturer and Historian on Marc Chagall

Vivian Jacobson was a lifelong resident of Chicago until 1989 when she and her husband, a retired tax attorney, moved to Pinehurst, North Carolina. She received a BS degree in Elementary Education from Roosevelt University in Chicago, supplemented by post graduate studies in physical education, and in French language, culture and literature. A lifetime interest in art was nurtured by trips to the Art Institute of Chicago, where she first became acquainted with the works of Marc Chagall.

In 1974, the Jacobsons hosted a reception for Madame and Maître Chagall on behalf of the Hadassah Medical Organization of Jerusalem, and shortly thereafter, Vivian Jacobson became a founding member of the American Friends of Chagall's Biblical Message Museum in Nice, France. She initially served as secretary and became the president in 1978, a post she held until 1982.

Chagall and the French association were seeking additional financial support for the museum's exhibitions, concerts and library expansion, an undertaking which Vivian Jacobson was able to accomplish successfully. She also led a campaign for the purchase of a replica of an 18th century Blanchet harpsichord. Chagall painted the biblical story of Rebecca and Isaac on the inside cover of the instrument, and it was dedicated in 1981 as a testament to Chagall's belief that the integration of art and music would create world peace.

Vivian Jacobson was honored to work closely with Chagall on major international projects during the last eleven years of his life. She was Chairperson for the fundraising committee to present a Chagall tapestry to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago in 1986. Woven by Yvette Cauquil-Prince of Paris, the masterful Job tapestry was commissioned by the Friends of the Chagall Tapestry.

In 2001, Vivian Jacobson was appointed a speaker on Marc Chagall for the North Carolina Humanities Council Forum in conjunction with the National Endowment of the Arts. The grant was extended through 2016. She has lectured for art groups, museums, churches, synagogues, colleges and schools nationally as well as in Europe and Israel.

LECTURES

Lectures range from 30 to 90 minutes including a question and answer session, and are tailored for each audience depending on size, venue, allotted time, special requests, etc. Lectures marked by an *asterisk contain selected readings from fitting Biblical passages.

Chagall and the Bible*

From his earliest years in Vitebsk, Belarus, Chagall was fascinated by the Bible. The lecture and the visual presentation covers seventeen major paintings from Genesis and Exodus, and the Song of Songs. These works are on permanent display at the Chagall Museum in Nice, France. Also included in the lecture are the stained glass windows of *The Creation of the Earth*, the famous harpsichord painting of Rebecca and Isaac, and a mosaic of the Prophet Elijah.



Hope, Peace, Reconciliation and Love: The Messages of Marc Chagall in His Art and Literature*

Few people realize that Chagall had a pronounced literary ability equal to that of his art. An overview of the artist's love of reading and writing both poetry and prose is given in this lecture, accompanied by a presentation displaying the artworks that inspired his writings.

The Ten Most Important Artworks of Marc Chagall and What They Mean to the World

Chagall's unique ability to express himself in several media: tapestry, mosaic, stained glass, lithographs, ceramics, book illustrations and oil paintings – is reflected in this presentation of ten works, each in a different medium, displaying the depth and breadth of Chagall's desire to provide beauty in a troubled world through the use of diverse media.

Chagall and Chicago



A lecture and visual presentation -- including two short documentary films -- devoted to three major Chagall works commissioned in the city of Chicago: *The Four Seasons* mosaic at the former First National Bank of Chicago Plaza, *The America Windows* at the Art Institute, and *The Job Tapestry* at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. Also included in the discussion are the two famous Chagall paintings on display at the Art Institute of Chicago – *White Crucifixion* and *The Praying Jew*.

Elvis and Chagall

What do a famous artist and the King of Rock and Roll have in common? How did Chagall's and Presley's great passion for their art give these two artists a profound commonality is explained during this unique lecture. Their artistic passion was grounded in a deep respect for religion. They insisted on total control of their art, both needed women in their lives for inspiration and to sustain their sense of creativity. The multi-media lecture will feature a presentation of paintings by Marc Chagall and musical background by Elvis Presley.



Moe Spector

The Jerusalem Windows: The Twelve Tribes of Israel*

Among Chagall's crowning achievements in the media of stained glass are the twelve windows he designed for the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem. Each of the windows represents a tribe of Israel. Chagall filled them with a dazzling assembly of animal forms, heavenly bodies and other elements symbolic of each tribe.



The Windows of Reconciliation: The St. Stephan Church in Mainz, Germany*

These windows, designed by Chagall for the apse of this church in 1973 were a representation of peace and reconciliation following World War II for France and Germany and for Christians and Jews. This lecture, first suggested by parish priest Klaus Mayer, combines a visual presentation illustrating each section of the windows with detailed analysis of the artwork as it coincides with Chagall's passion for the Bible.

The Christ Configuration: The Crucifixion and the Resurrection in the Artworks of Chagall*

The presentation, focusing on Chagall's messages of hope, peace, reconciliation and love, features readings from the New and Old Testament, including the Hebraic interpretation of The Prince of Peace ~ Jesus, and the Prophet of Peace ~ Isaiah. The lecture concludes with a review of the visuals and a recording of Elvis Presley singing *Amazing Grace*.

Chagall and the Women in His Life

This lecture concentrates on how the women in Chagall's life - his grandmother, mother, six sisters, his two wives, Bella Rosenfield and Vava Brodsky, his companion Virginia Haggard, his daughter Ida and granddaughters, Bella Meyer and Meret Meyer – influenced his becoming one of the greatest artists of the 20th century. In addition to a visual presentation of paintings inspired by each woman, the lecture also features the writings of Bella and Marc Chagall.



Flowers by Chagall

“Art is the increasing effort to compete with the beauty of flowers – and never succeeding,” such were the words of Chagall. A passion for nature in the form of flowers, trees, birds and animals shines through all his magnificent creations, but Chagall's love and interpretation of flowers specifically can be found throughout every medium of his work. This lecture is accompanied by an impressive visual presentation.

The Color of Love

A special discussion combines visuals with stories of Chagall's childhood in Russia to his adult life in France. The use of up to 100 postcards of Chagall's paintings as well as a question and answer segment make this an entertaining lecture for children of all ages, as well as adults.



Chagall in Israel: Exploring Chagall's Artistic and Spiritual Legacy

Although some of Chagall's biographers have thought his relationship to Israel was linked to a commission illustrating the Bible, actually his first trip to Palestine in 1931 heightened his enduring bond with his Hasidic Jewish heritage. He maintained close ties with artists, art historians, politicians, writers and businessmen, in Israel extending the depth of his involvement with each of his seven visits. This lecture examines these artistic pilgrimages which serve as an introduction to his paintings and other artwork that he donated to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the Tel Aviv Museum. In addition a sampling of sketches, drawings and other works found in both private and public collections is included in the lecture.

The English Woman in the Life of Marc Chagall

A fascinating look at one of the women who had a profound influence on the work of Marc Chagall. Virginia Haggard McNeil spent seven years with Chagall from 1945-1952. During that time the artist's prolific output in various media included oil paintings, ceramics, and design of sets and costumes for ballets. Their companionship was very special and filled with love. Samples of the artwork produced during their relationship, and some of their letters to each other will be illustrated in a power point presentation accompanying the lecture.



The Monumental Works of Marc Chagall: Stained Glass Windows, Tapestries and Mosaics

The message of Chagall's monumental works are present in public places in: Israel, Switzerland, the United States, England, France and Germany. These works are the inspiration for the message, "You can get older but you do not have to get old!" Chagall began his stained glass career at the age of 70 and went on to produce 15 sets of windows in various locations. While Chagall was of the Jewish faith and spent his early years in the Orthodox Hasidic community of Vitebsk, Belarus, it is interesting to note the number of windows he did for churches. This lecture is an in-depth study of these windows and well worth the time to discover the expanse in his creativity into the world of mosaics and tapestry.

Sharing Chagall : A Memoir

The fascinating volume that has captured the attention of Chagall enthusiasts since its release is now in its fifth printing with sales topping 2000 copies. The book is a tribute to the iconic artist of the 20th Century and to the timeless friendship which the author shared with Chagall during the last eleven years of his life. Although many books have been written about Chagall, the artist, Vivian Jacobson has devoted herself through years of study and research and her own memories of time spent with Chagall to portraying the individual qualities of the man, who was quick-witted, with a wry sense of humor, a lover of music and a writer of poetry.

Order the book online or email info@vivianjacobson.com.



Conversations with Chagall

Music was an important part of Chagall's life. Consequently, as an acknowledgement of the magnificent gift of Chagall's friendship, Vivian and her husband, Ralph commissioned a musical tribute to the artist to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. *The Chagall Suite* for piano, is combined with an earlier work by composer Seth Weinstein, who has performed both pieces in concert in the United States, France and Germany.

The CD is available through the website: VivianJacobson.com.



HOW TO BOOK LECTURES AND SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

For additional information on any lecture or to schedule a speaking or book signing event, please contact: info@vivianjacobson.com.