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Saks wins national prize for 'patchwork' collage

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Judith-Ann Saks (Mrs. Haskell Rosenthal) won the National First Prize for her collage, "Our Heritage — A Patchwork of Our Past," in the American Heritage Contest.

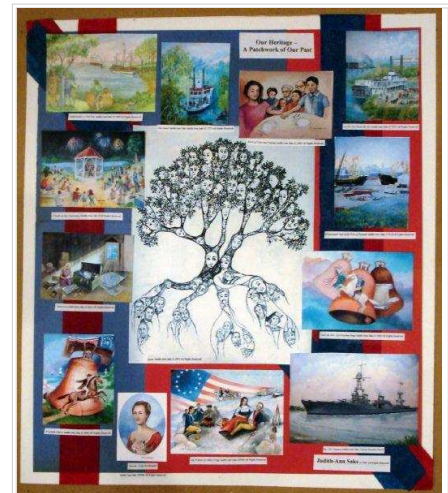
The entry was sponsored by the Lady Washington Chapter, NSDAR. The collage will be on exhibit July 8-12, 2009, at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Two years ago she won the national first prize for her acrylic painting, "A New Day: A Heritage Remembered."

This colorful collage, a unified assemblage of various elements to form a whole, shows a patchwork of American life through photographs of her own paintings and her drawing containing views of life at various times in American history.

Each image is centered around a collective family tree of our country. In the tree's branches are citizens of today, in its trunk are a mother and child, and in its roots are our ancestors. If one looks in the roots, one can find a Viking, Christopher Columbus, several Presidents, generals, a pilgrim, colonial figures, a frontiersman, a cowboy, an Indian, and others representative of our Nation's collective history.

Starting at the top left and going clockwise around the Nation's collective family tree are 1) the settling of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in America in 1607; 2) the birth of the city of Houston's water transportation system in January, 1837, but could be the birth of any US port or city; 3) the spirit of unity of the family working and eating together; 4) a scene at Allen's Landing around the year 1870 as our nation approached its Centennial, 5) the Bicentennial Year at the Port of Houston, 1976, showing a busy dock scene symbolic of the activities of any port, 6) three bells ringing in the heavens reminding us of the spirit of the patriotic heroes of the American Revolution. (in the first bell, Betsy Ross, represents all the women who worked and sacrificed during the war; in the second, George Washington calls his men to arms and leads them to victory, and in the third, the Declaration of Independence, the document declaring our freedom from tyranny, which inspired the foundations of our country; 7) the Cruiser Houston, named in 1929, known as the Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast (so named because she had been reported sunk several times, but mysteriously reappeared), the flagship of the U.S. Fleet in 1938; the flagship of the Hawaiian Detachment in 1939; the flagship of Admiral Hart, Commander Asiatic Fleet in 1940 and finally sunk in a valiant battle with the Japanese fleet in WWII; 8) the women at Valley Forge featuring Molly Pitcher with a wounded artillery soldier to whom she has just given food and water; 9) a Martha Washington cameo depicting a young "Lady" Washington embodying the spirit of hospitality, moral fiber, kindness, generosity, and patriotism of our past; 10) the Liberty Bell, symbolizing the spirit of freedom, with Paul Revere sounding the alarm to his countrymen that the British are coming; 10) a young woman searching the dusty attic for her roots and heritage; and 11) the Fourth of July Celebration based on how many families celebrated the birthday of the United States of America with pomp and celebrations. These images form a collage of some of the patchwork of our nation's past.

Judith-Ann Saks' lithographs of the Houston Ship Channel for its Bicentennial Project of the Port of Houston are in the Archives of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution, the library at Windsor Castle, President Jimmy Carter's collection, and other museums and historical societies in the United States. Other awards include 1st Prize, Watercolor, Art League of Houston; 1st Prize, Graphics, Art League of Houston; 1st Prize, Sculpture, Art League of Houston; Arthur Q. Davis Prize for Drawing; National Honorable Mention, Drawing, Del Mar College; 1st Prize, Drawing, Honorable Mention, Eighth Annual East Alabama Art Exhibit, and others. She has been included in Who's Who in American Art, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the World, and others. To see other art works go to www.saksart.com.



Judith-Ann Saks' "Our Heritage — A Patchwork of Our Past."

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