

SPARCnews

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 1991

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CHAGALL-INSPIRED MURAL TO BE DEDICATED JUNE 5

The new mural "Chagall Comes to Venice Beach," designed and painted by Christina Schlesinger, will be formally dedicated in ceremonies to be held Wednesday, June 5 at 10 a.m., at the Israel Levin Senior Adult Center, 201 Ocean Front Walk, Venice. It is the second mural to be completed in the Social and Public Art Resource Center's 1990-91 Neighborhood Pride: Great Walls Unlimited mural program. The public is invited.

Living in Los Angeles in the 1970s, Schlesinger was involved in the Citywide Murals Project. In 1976 she helped to organize SPARC, with Judith F. Baca and Donna Deitch. Many of the images Schlesinger uses in her mural come directly from the work of Russian-Jewish painter Marc Chagall, and they are integrated into scenes of the Venice boardwalk. Many of the seniors who use the Israel Levin Center come from the Eastern European *shtetl* culture celebrated in Chagall's paintings. The mural pays tribute to that culture, while also acknowledging Jewish contributions to Los Angeles life.

The mural sponsor, SPARC, is an internationally recognized multicultural arts organization which produces, preserves and exhibits public art. In the current year of the Neighborhood Pride program SPARC will erect twelve murals at sites around the City of Los Angeles, bringing the three-year total of Neighborhood Pride murals to thirty-six. The program, funded by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, employs neighborhood youth as assistants to the professional muralist.

The Israel Levin Senior Adult Center of Bay Cities JCC provides kosher meals, classes and other activities for the senior residents of West Los Angeles, Venice and Santa Monica. The Bay Cities JCC is a constituent unit of Jewish Community Centers Association of Greater Los Angeles, a beneficiary of the United Jewish Fund, an affiliate of the JCC Association of North America, and is a United Way recipient.

For further information, please call Evelyn Alexander, Israel Levin Senior Adult Center, at (213) 396-0205, or Eric A. Gordon, SPARC, at (213) 822-9560.

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