

# Art of remembrance

GARETH NARUNSKY

ARTIST Thea Weiss has always enjoyed a very strong bond with her mother-in-law, Holocaust survivor Lotte Weiss.

Lotte, who spent three years in Auschwitz and lost her five siblings and parents during the Shoah, is a survivor guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum. In 2003, she released a book, *My Two Lives*, chronicling her experiences.

When Thea was completing her bachelor of fine arts in 2006, it came naturally to her that her final project should be inspired by the book and the many other Holocaust memories her mother-in-law had shared with her.

"That was my inspiration. It was for the final project, but it's just taken on a life of its own," Thea said. Her work has since been displayed at the Jewish Museum of Australia in Melbourne, Sydney's Mary Place Gallery, and the Holocaust Museum in Houston, USA.

Her latest exhibition to be inspired by Lotte's stories, *Fire and Ice: Survival of the Spirit*, will be on display at the Sydney Jewish Museum from this Sunday, and will be officially opened on Sunday, October 16.



The subject and the artist, Lotte (left) and Thea Weiss.

Thea described the process of creating the paintings, etchings and installations as "very intense".

"One of them, I did an overview of Auschwitz," Thea said. "People who saw it said 'now you must do other concentration camps', but it was just so much for me to do it, and see it, I just couldn't replicate it. It was a very emotional experience."

Thea insists, however, that rather than being horrific, her art is underpinned by hope.

"It shows an optimism, because Lotte is such an optimistic person," she said. "It's not something that you'd walk away, or you'd turn your head. You want to get involved because of the art and the story behind it."

Lotte recalled the first time she saw Thea's art. "Even as I talk about it, I've

got tears in my eyes. Because for a person who, thank God, never saw anything like that, never heard anything like that, [she] became so involved with so much love, understanding and feeling," she said.

"She is totally exceptional, and as long as I live, I will never be able to be grateful to her enough."

From feeling suicidal and alone in the world after losing her family in the Holocaust, Lotte said she now feels blessed.

"It took me a long time but now I'm the most blessed and happiest person in the world, because I've got all the love which I lost, from my children, my family and hundreds of friends," she said.

"I am a very fortunate and happy and lucky person."

# PINK SUNDAY 2011

16 October 11am-2pm

KIDS FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY CONNECT TO SUPPORT BREAST CANCER NETWORK AUSTRALIA



11am

Official Opening  
**The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP**  
Member for Vaucluse  
**Cr Susan Wynne**  
Mayor of Woollahra

Featuring  
**SHE IS THE KING**  
Jacqueline Feilich  
Award Winning Female  
Elvis Tribute Artist



11.45

**PINK FOAM PARTY**

Belly Dancer DJ

12.00  
Storytelling and Creative Art Activities with  
**Susanne Gervay OAM**  
**Cyndi Freiman**  
**Shiri Hergass**

**KIDS & TEENS CREATIVE ART EXHIBITION**

**Fanny Reading Council House**

**111 Queen Street Woollahra**

Public Car Park closed 7am-5pm



Pink Pooch Competition

Indoors and outdoors activities for young and all Information Stalls  
Arts and Crafts Trees of Life Pink Silhouettes Kosher Snacks  
in Pink Sukkah Prizes and Surprises Winners of Art Exhibition  
and Best Pink Window Display to be announced

## QUEEN STREET PINK WEEK 9-16 OCTOBER



**THINK PINK SHOP PINK  
DRESS PINK EAT PINK**



Proceeds from Pink Sunday and Queen Street Pink Week support Breast Cancer Network Australia

The above events are the initiative of National Council of Jewish Women of Australia and Jewish Women Breast Cancer Network, joined by Queen Street And West Woollahra Association in support of Breast Cancer Network Australia. We thank our volunteers, the Woollahra community and sponsors. For details contact Lisa (02)93630257 or admin@ncjwns.org



Wentworth Courier



**ONE ON ONE program – Volunteers urgently needed**

Training to commence on 23.10.2011 – call 9363 0257

## IN THE COMMUNITY

GARETH NARUNSKY

### Rosh Hashanah with JewishCare

EIGHTY people attended JewishCare's Rosh Hashanah lunch as part of the organisation's mental-health program.

The lunch was held at Emanuel Synagogue and officiated by Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio. It featured the second public performance of the eight-member Shiru Shir Choir, which sang a selection of Hebrew songs for the occasion.

JewishCare vice-president Tony Breuer welcomed the crowd and confirmed the organisation's commitment to the mental-health program, which, he said is making a difference to the lives of members of the community with mental-health issues.

Meanwhile, the aged case-work team's Rosh Hashanah lunch was held outside the Eastern Suburbs for the first time. Around 30 people attended the event at Masada College, with students providing numerous musical items and Rabbi Gad Krebs addressing the attendees about the tradition of serving apples and honey for the new year.

### Luna Park fun

SUCCOT at Luna Park will be on again this year, courtesy of Chabad Youth, on Sunday, October 16 from 11am.

At the event, which is now in its third year, children can enjoy the many rides the amusement park has to offer, in between dining on kosher food and making the blessings



(From left) Jake Taylor, Matt Jacobson, Dylan Dimant, Ariella Zilka, JEM teachers Chida Levitansky, Talia Zilka.

### Shabbat is a JEM

JEWISH Education Matters (JEM) held its "Shabbat 300" for the extended family of JEM children, parents and grandparents at Kesser Torah College recently.

The food was cooked, prepared and set out by the parents and grandparents in Our Big Kitchen, creating a wonderful community spirit, and children performed for the dinner guests.

Currently more than 100 children are enrolled in JEM, while 45 teenagers volunteer their time each week to help with lessons.

"This wasn't just another Shabbat dinner, this was a JEM community event with everyone taking an active role in planning and creating what was a most memorable evening," JEM director Rabbi Yossi Shuchat said.

over the lulav and etrog in the giant succah.

"It's the succah with the best view in Sydney – you can see the Opera House, you can see the bridge," Chabad Youth director Rabbi Elimelech Levy said.

"It's just a great opportunity to get out with the family."

"It's something people can enjoy, just to get out there with their families in a good environment so people feel at home.

"Not every one has a succah in their house, not every one has a lulav and etrog, but if they come to the park, they can take part in Succot."