

I HAVE SWORN UPON THE ALTAR OF GOD ETERNAL HOSTILITY AGAINST EVERY FORM OF TYRANNY OVER THE MIND OF MAN — THOMAS JEFFERSON

# THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE RENAISSANCE OF ARTHUR SZYK

Vol. 3 No. 2

Newsletter

Summer 2002

## Society Traveling Exhibition Opens On UC Berkeley Campus

The Arthur Szyk Society proudly announces the opening of *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk*, which makes its college campus debut at UC Berkeley this Fall. Organized by The Arthur Szyk Society with major funding from the Helen & Sanford Diller Supporting Foundation of the San Francisco Jewish Community Endowment Fund, the exhibition will be hosted by UC Berkeley Hillel and Lehrhaus Judaica Adult School for Jewish Studies. The exhibition will open officially to the public September 3, and

(See Exhibition p. 2)



**A Madman's Dream**, *The American Mercury*, 1941. This disturbing portrayal of Hitler's ideal future, in which Nazi Germany conquers the United States is one of the many images which appears in *Justice Illuminated*.



This drawing, **Der Untermensch** [The Subhuman], appeared as a fold-out in the January 1942 issue of *Coronet Magazine*. This nightmarish scene shows Hitler enthroned with the world in his lap, surrounded by German stooges and Axis leaders. Uncle Sam and John Bull, symbols of the U.S. and Britain, are enchained slaves. Crushed under Hitler's foot is the stereotypical "subhuman" Jew.

## United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Showcases Szyk's Art & Politics More than 145 Original Works on Display

*The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk*, now on exhibition at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) through October 14, 2002, represents the first one-artist exhibition ever held at one of this nation's most prestigious institutions. Bringing together more than 145 original works of art from private lenders and institutions throughout the United States, Canada, England, Japan, and Israel, this exhibition is the largest single gathering of Szyk's art in the last half-century.

The exhibition highlights three major themes of Szyk's work. Section One focuses on Szyk as a "Jewish Artist" and shows how the themes of fighting against tyranny, oppression and annihilation of the Jewish People were present in Szyk's earliest religious works, such as *The Book of Esther* (1925) and *The Haggadah* (late 1930s). Section Two, "Wartime Caricaturist" demonstrates why Szyk was one of the most influential political artists in America during the Second World War, and how he became a "one-man army" against the Axis and in the service of the Allied cause. Section Three "Action - Not Pity" examines Szyk as the artist-activist on behalf on his fellow Jews, drawing America's attention to Nazi genocide and his people's suffering, demanding "Action - Not Pity." This section also

(Continued on p. 7)



**THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY**  
A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

1200 Edgehill Drive  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
Tel. 650-343-9588  
Fax 650-579-6014  
info@szyk.org  
http://www.szyk.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Dr. Charles S. Syers  
*President*

Seymour Fromer  
*Vice-President*

Sander I. Stadler  
*Treasurer*

Pamela H. Stein  
*Secretary*

Irvin D. Ungar  
*President Emeritus*

Leslie Brenner  
Alex Lauterbach  
Jack Schwartz

**HONORARY BOARD**

Alexandra Szyk Bracie  
*Daughter of Arthur Szyk*

The Hon. Tom Lantos  
*U.S. Congressman (D - CA)*

Jill Indyk

## Letter from Board President, Dr. Charles S. Syers



Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to our Summer, 2002 newsletter. First, I'd like to report on the overwhelming success of *The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk* at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and spending time with Society friends, members, and supporters at our opening reception in April at the Four Seasons Hotel in honor of Alexandra Szyk Bracie. Thanks to all those who attended the event in Washington!

The Arthur Szyk Society is excited about the upcoming opening of *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk* at the University of California Berkeley Hillel this fall. The exhibit is scheduled to run through December 6, 2002 and features exquisitely designed panels by Bill Chayes and Irene Morris, as well as an informative Study-Guide prepared by Dr. Byron Sherwin. Irvin Ungar serves as curator. This traveling exhibit is expected to

continue its Bay Area run at San Francisco State University in early 2003. Additional venues, such as the University of New England and the University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana, are being considered as the next steps on the traveling exhibition tour.

Since 1991, The Society has curated exhibitions or loaned artwork to museums, galleries, universities, libraries, community centers, and synagogues. Our campaign to raise awareness about Arthur Szyk and the messages of his artwork needs your continued support. Your contributions help in the production and promotion of the traveling exhibition program and its accompanying education/curricula materials. Please help us in bringing Szyk's messages of justice, tolerance and activism to audiences worldwide.

With best wishes,  
Dr. Charles S. Syers

**Exhibition from page 1**

run through December 6, 2002. An Opening reception is planned for October 6. A companion study-guide has been prepared to accompany the exhibition (see Sherwin article on p.3).

After more than one and one-half years in the planning, this traveling exhibition captures three major themes in Szyk's life work: World War II, America, and Jewish Response. "Here you will meet (to quote the exhibition title panel) Arthur Szyk — a versatile artist whose passions were only exceeded by his talent." This exhibition invites the viewer: college student, university professor, Bay Area resident and community member to witness through Szyk's art his vision of a world of beauty and horror, of hope and despair, of terror and freedom — a world of times past; yet, a world not very different than our own.

This traveling exhibit fulfills one of the major goals and educational mandates of

**After more than  
one and a half  
years in the plan-  
ning, this traveling  
exhibition captures  
three major  
themes in Szyk's  
work**

The Arthur Szyk Society: to bring Arthur Szyk's legacy as a cultural hero and national treasure to communities throughout the United States.

*The exhibition, located at The Reutlinger Center, 2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA is open Monday through Friday 10:00-5:00PM; evenings and Sundays by appointment only. To*

*arrange for group reservations, phone Jenni Mangel, at UC Berkeley Hillel, 510.845.7793 ext. 16, or jmangel@berkeleyhillel.org. Those interested in bringing this exhibition to their community and/or campus should contact The Society office at 650.343.9588 or info@szyk.org.*

## Dr. Byron Sherwin Authors Study-Guide to Accompany Society Traveling Exhibition

Internationally renowned Jewish scholar, theologian and ethicist, Dr. Byron L. Sherwin has written an informative study-guide to be used exclusively as a supplemental aide in considering the historical context and thematic subject matter of *Justice Illuminated: The Art of Arthur Szyk*. The guide provides a political, sociological, religious, artistic and philosophical backdrop for understanding Szyk and his artwork. Numerous “Questions to Consider” are posed, and selected works from each of the exhibition’s three sections are decoded. Dr. Sherwin has served for more than 30 years as Vice-President and Distinguished Service Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Mysticism at Chicago’s Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies in Chicago,



*Tears of Rage*. One of the images decoded in Sherwin’s study-guide

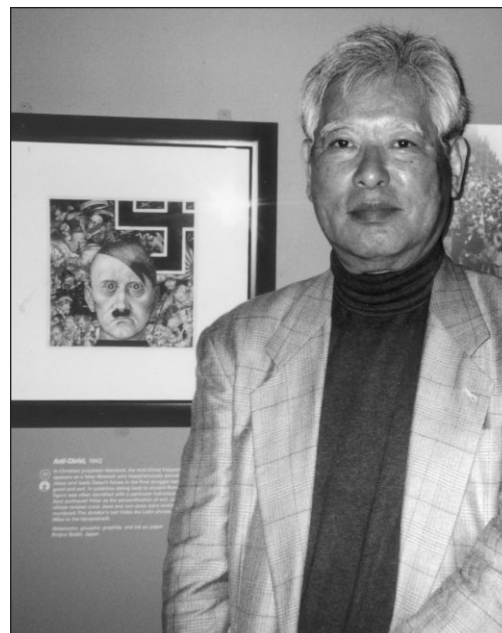
This educational study-guide should be of interest to individuals studying the following academic disciplines: Art, Art History, Philosophy (aesthetics), American History, Modern European History, World War II Studies, Holocaust Studies, Slavic Studies, Jewish Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Political Science.

UC Berkeley Faculty and students as well as Bay Area Educators will have the first opportunity to use the study-guide in connection with the traveling exhibition. Copies of the *Justice Illuminated* study-guide may be obtained by phoning The Society office at 650.343.9588. Price is \$15.



### Szyk Atmosphere Abounds at Museum

Everywhere you turn in the Holocaust Museum one can see Szyk’s faces — on Kiosks throughout the museum one encounters composites of all of Szyk’s characters — ; in the entry area to the exhibit one is greeted by a WWII Universal Pictures Newsreel entitled “Cartoon Crusader,” a two-minute audio-visual narration by Ben Grauer portraying Szyk at work as a master draftsman in his “one-man campaign against the Axis”; in the gift shop one can rent an audio tour of the exhibition or purchase Szyk memorabilia; Self-Guided Viewing Activity cards as well as fold-out brochures await the visitor at the exhibition entrance... and as a result of a June 19 Panel Discussion co-hosted by the Holocaust Museum and the Newseum entitled “Drawing on War: Artists as Activists” comparing Szyk’s work with other wartime cartoonists, one can catch a on-line version of the program by visiting the website of the Newseum at [www.newseum.org](http://www.newseum.org)



Japanese professor and Szyk collector, Rinjiro Sodei stands before *Anti-Christ*, 1942, one of his works exhibited at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

### The Arthur Szyk Society collaborates with the Holocaust Museum

We are pleased that The Arthur Szyk Society played a significant role in the preparations for *The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk* exhibition. Society curator Irvin Ungar served as consultant to the museum’s curatorial team, and through The Arthur Szyk Society, made a major loan of artwork to the exhibition. We are delighted that the Museum has recognized The Society’s contributions with its exhibition credits as well as providing a link to the Society’s website through its online Szyk exhibition resources.

## ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY HONORS ALEXANDRA SZYK BRACIE AT D.C. RECEPTION

### *Honorary Host Hadassah Lieberman welcomes guests*

More than 150 people, representing 14 states, attended The Arthur Szyk Society reception in honor of Alexandra Szyk Bracie at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. on April 9, 2002. With a moving speech by Honorary Host Hadassah Lieberman, whose life and commitments share meaningful parallels with Arthur Szyk, the reception heralded the start of a new chapter for The Society. VIPs included the Ambassador of Poland Przemyslaw Grudzinski, representatives from the German and Israeli Embassies, new Honorary Board Member Jill Indyk, University of Illinois supporters, Alexandra Szyk Bracie's family and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council Members. The reception marked the opening of *The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk* at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which continues through October 14, 2002.



Hadasah Lieberman addresses guests at The Arthur Szyk Society reception at the Four Seasons in Washington, D.C. on April 9, 2002.



Photos by Bill Petros

Alexandra Bracie is applauded. (From left) Gayle Syers, Hadassah Lieberman, Irvin Ungar, Mrs. Bracie, Seymour Fromer, Pam Stein and Jill Indyk.



San Francisco Bay Area Society supporters Paul and Sheri Robbins converse with Hadassah Lieberman.



Alexandra Bracie and Arthur Szyk's granddaughters.



From Left, Gus Zuzo and guest, Natalie Handley, and hosts Gayle and Chuck Syers.



German Embassy Political Counsellor, Marja Einig-Heidenhof enjoys a moment with Mrs. Bracie.



Society president Chuck Syers presents Hadassah Leiberman with Szyk's Visual History of the U.S. lithograph.

What the Media is saying about *The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk* at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:

"Deft, concise, elegant, mercurial, full of righteous outrage and pain, the art of Arthur Szyk proves the dictum that sometimes you can only fight fire with fire – or hatred with hate. And, as this smoldering show makes clear, Szyk's art still burns."

*Washington Post*, August 19, 2002

"He has an amazing technique... these illustrations really do take you inside the hatred, the evil, the oppressiveness of what was going on in Germany..."

*WETA TV Around Town*, April 18, 2002.

"Szyk combined superb artistic skills and unquenchable passion. This splendid, comprehensive display underscores why Eleanor Roosevelt called Szyk a "one-man army."

*ARTnews* magazine, Summer 2002.

"A gifted illuminator and book illustrator, Szyk, who crusaded for the rights of Jews in Poland in the 1920's and 30's, moved to the United States in 1940, becoming an influential, prolific and accessible anti-Nazi propagandist."

*New York Times*, May 29, 2002.



## Jill Indyk Joins Society Honorary Board

Jill Indyk, former cultural relations director at the Australian Embassy in Washington and wife of Dr. Martin S. Indyk, former Ambassador to Israel (1995-97, 2000-2001), has joined the Honorary Board of The Arthur Szyk Society. We are deeply privileged that

Mrs. Indyk has agreed to serve in this capacity and share in The Society's growth and accomplishments. Mrs. Indyk joins Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Alexandra Szyk Bracie on the Honorary Board.



Polish Ambassador Grudzinski and colleague confer with Jill Indyk.

# Arthur Szyk Remembered In Forest Hills, New York Ceremony



Photo by Harold Zipkowitz

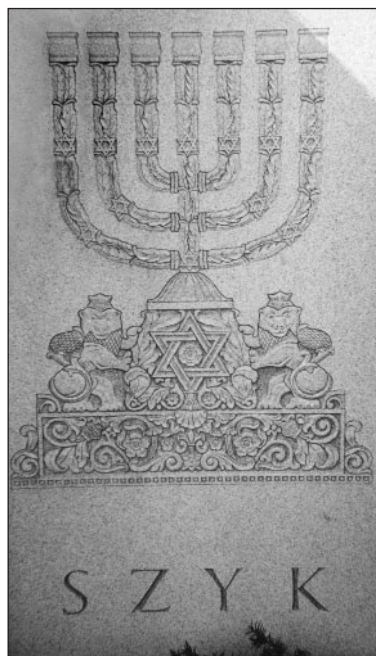
Standing before Szyk's magnificent Ark, (from left) Barbara Klibanoff, Seymour Fromer, Kalia Bokser, Irvin Ungar, Alexandra Bracie and Rabbi Gerald Skolnik.

Over 150 people attended a memorable evening at the Forest Hills Jewish Center in Queens to pay tribute to Arthur Szyk on the 50th Anniversary since his death in 1951. The ceremony of commemoration this past April 16th coincided with the celebration of Israel's 54th anniversary of Independence. The evening program took place in the Rabbi Ben Zion Bokser Sanctuary in front of the majestic 2-story ark designed by Szyk in the 1940s. Szyk also created the Eternal Light and Menorahs for the Sanctuary.

Guest speakers included Szyk's daughter Alexandra Bracie, as well as Mrs. Kalia Bokser, wife of Szyk's esteemed Rabbi. It was Rabbi Bokser who first exhibited Szyk's famous *Haggadah* upon his arrival in America in late 1940 and who 11 years later officiated at his friend's funeral at The Forest Hills Jewish Center. Both Mrs. Bokser and Mrs. Bracie spoke eloquently and insightfully as they reflected on the great artist's work and personality. Representing The Society from California were Board members Irvin Ungar and Seymour Fromer. Among the Forest Hills organizing committee were Candice Koerner (Chair), Barbara Klibanoff, Tina Berger, and Valerie K. Leibler (President). Also in attendance was Professor

Rinjiro Sodei from Japan, a Szyk scholar and lender to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum exhibition in Washington.

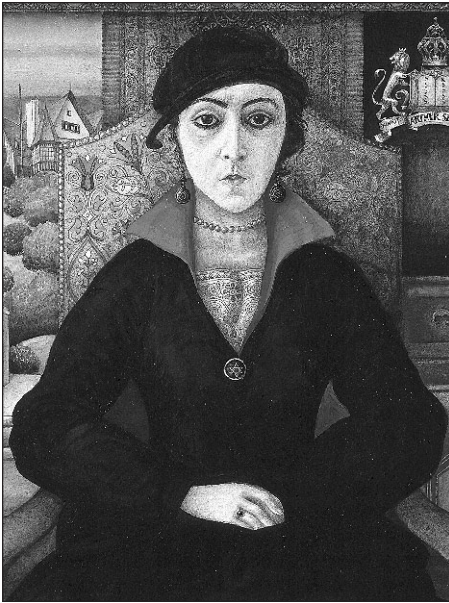
A highlight of the evening included the display of Szyk's original drawings and sketches of the Ark, the *Crown*, the *Menorah*, and the *Ner Tamid*, which are owned by The Forest Hills Jewish Center. This was their first public viewing in over 50 years.



Arthur Szyk's Tombstone in Pinelawn, Long Island.

Earlier in the day Szyk's daughter and Society curator Ungar visited Szyk's graveside plot in the New Montefiore Cemetery in Pinelawn, Long Island to pay respects. Mrs. Bracie was quite moved as the *El Malei Rachamim* (Memorial prayer) and *Mourner's Kaddish* were recited, remembering "Father as a remarkable man" upon leaving the hallowed ground.

In conjunction with the commemoration at The Forest Hills Jewish Center, The Arthur Szyk Society produced a 12-page illustrated booklet entitled "*Arthur Szyk Remembered*" which tells of Szyk's relationship with the Forest Hills synagogue, and includes Szyk's drawings for the sanctuary as well as the pieces exhibited during the evening. *Society members are encouraged to request a free copy of the booklet. Call 650.343.9588 for more information.*



## AN AMAZING DISCOVERY: Szyk's Portrait of his Wife, Julia

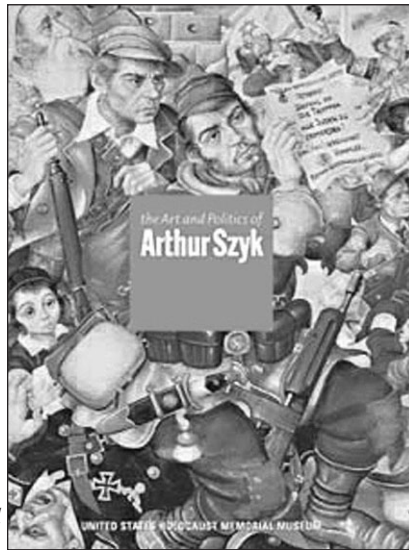
Julia Szyk was a known beauty in her time and her husband made great use of her pulchritude as a model for many of his artworks. In this study, painted early in his career, can be seen the same dark-eyed honesty that he brought to the face of Esther in his 1925 publication *Le Livre D'Esther*. Over her right shoulder is a tranquil scene of what appears to be a home and gardens. This chateau-like structure was, in fact, the A. Decour Galleries. The Szyk's first home in Paris was located just beyond it.

Although Szyk certainly painted women, they were by and large superseded by the many representations of male heroes. This is a most unusual rendering of his interpretation of the essence of Jewish womanhood. Who to better exemplify it than his own beautiful Julia?

Portrait of Julia Szyk. Paris, 1926.  
Watercolor and gouache, 6 1/2" x 6 1/2"

## Szyk Book Published to Accompany USHMM Exhibition

Appearing in conjunction with the Museum's new exhibition, this fascinating volume includes over 150 pages of vivid, full color reproductions drawn from private and public collectors around the world, historical photographs, and detailed text. Historian and exhibition curator Steven Luckert traces Arthur Szyk's remarkable personal and artistic journey as a gifted illustrator, extraordinary caricaturist, commercial artist, Jewish patriot, and crusader. *For ordering information, call 650.343.9588 or visit the Holocaust Museum website at [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org).*



## ONLINE EXHIBITIONS

The internet web exhibition of "*The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk*" is not to be missed. But if you want to see and study it all, more than two hours is needed, and several visits are recommended. Check it out, at: [www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/szyk/](http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/online/szyk/) or visit [www.szyk.org](http://www.szyk.org) which easily links to this site. And while you are at it, do visit the Library of Congress online exhibition "Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom" at [www.loc.gov/rr/print/swann/szyk/](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/swann/szyk/). (This may also be accessed through The Society's website.)

## Lehrhaus Judaica

### to offer 3-session course on Szyk

Irvin Ungar will teach a series of classes devoted to Arthur Szyk and his art. This slide-oriented course will address the symbolic currency of Szyk's activism, his vision, and the art through which he communicated both.

Classes will meet on Thursday evenings, October 10,17,24; 7:30-9:00PM at The Reutlinger Center, 2736 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA. Registration required (course fee \$50). To register, phone Lehrhaus Judaica at 510.845.6420 and mention course A140-LJ, or visit [www.lehrhaus.org](http://www.lehrhaus.org).

*Continued from p.1*

shows the pivotal role Szyk's art played in the advocacy and creation of the State of Israel.

In 1994, Alexandra Szyk Bracie and her husband, Joseph, donated more than 70 original paintings and sketches by her father to the Holocaust Museum. This collection served as the springboard for the 2002 exhibition, through which Szyk is portrayed as the leading Jewish artist in America during World War II.

Through the vision and enthusiastic spirit of the exhibition's curators Stephen Goodell and Steven Luckert, assisted by Jacek Nowakowski and Laura Surwit, and a team of others, *The Art and Politics of Arthur Szyk* promises to be of legendary proportions in the history of art exhibitions celebrating the spirit of resistance and passion of those who are committed to the fight against tyranny and oppression.

In the Foreword to the excellent and highly illuminating companion volume to the exhibition, former Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, has written: "As Szyk affirmed the universal cause of democracy even as he upheld...a distinctive Jewish history, culture, identity... (his) witness rises to the level of prophecy - prophetic as to the Jewish future but, like the biblical prophets of old, carrying a powerful message for all humanity."

## Our Newest Members

Marc Abramowitz – *Ross, CA*  
Lee & Dianne Brandenburg –  
*Monte Sereno, CA*  
Jay Blum – *Highland Park, NJ*  
Roberta Cohn – *Moraga, CA*  
Morris Cooper – *Farmington Hills, MI*  
Dr. Krystyna Dietrich – *Enfield, NH*  
George & Diane Frankenstein –  
*San Francisco, CA*  
Isabel Autry Freeman – *Greensboro, NC*  
Don Friend – *San Francisco, CA*  
Joseph Garabrant – *Pearl River, NY*  
Jay Ginsburg – *Norristown, PA*  
Peter Hereld – *New Haven, CT*  
P.J. Husack – *Burlingame, CA*  
Arthur Jaffe – *Boca Raton, FL*  
Richard Janger – *Highland Park, IL*  
Arnold & Deanna Kaplan – *Allentown, PA*  
Barbara & Jerry Klibanoff – *Forest Hills, NY*  
David Knetzer – *San Diego, CA*  
Ed Kroft – *Vancouver, British Columbia*  
Nancy Leavitt – *New York, NY*  
Stephan Loewentheil – *Baltimore, MD*  
Lester Mehlman – *Morton Grove, IL*

Richard Milich – *Lexington, KY*  
Richard Nowakowski – *Philadelphia, PA*  
P.R. Ohringer – *Pittsburgh, PA*  
William O'Neill – *Walnut Creek, CA*  
Bradley Parker – *Machias, NY*  
Michael Preziose – *Williston, VT*  
Alan Rabunski – *New York, NY*  
David Rosner – *Cincinnati, OH*  
Jeff Rudolph – *West Hartford, CT*  
Ellen Saliman – *Hillsborough, CA*  
Miroslaw & Paula Sawicki –  
*Bethesda, MD*  
Lawrence Sherman – *Chicago, IL*  
Albert Small – *Bethesda, MD*  
Dr. Oscar Stadtler – *Beachwood, OH*  
Rose Starr – *Ship Bottom, NJ*  
Jerome Stern – *New York, NY*  
Alan Sternberg – *Walnut Creek, CA*  
Herman Taube – *Rockville, MD*  
Dorothy Vogel – *San Mateo, CA*  
Nina Weil – *Burlingame, CA*  
Marilyn & Ray Weisberg –  
*San Francisco, CA*  
Bernard Zuzo – *Lake Barrington, IL*



## Looking toward the Future

Growth is crucial in order to responsibly accommodate the new demands and increased public interest in The Society and the art and social messages of Arthur Szyk. Our programs, newsletters, exhibitions, and other events need your continued support. Please join us in helping to promote public awareness of Szyk's body of work by renewing your membership and sharing with us names of institutions in your community for whom you think our traveling exhibition program might be a suitable venue. Your contribution is tax-deductible. Many thanks for your continued support

**THE ARTHUR SZYK SOCIETY**  
**1200 EDGEHILL DRIVE**  
**BURLINGAME, CA 94010**



"I am a soldier. You seldom hear of art as an army in this country. That is my purpose. There is a saying, 'If Szyk is making cartoons, that means there is a war.' When it is over, I shall go back to my miniatures, but not before. You see, I do not believe art can afford to remain neutral in these times." – **Arthur Szyk**