

## Good

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only allows him to finish a painting in one session, but it allows two brush strokes to come together to form something new and remarkable.

Sammoun, 59, was born in Lebanon and immigrated to Canada at age 21. He earned degrees in electronic engineering and telecommunications, but never gave up an early passion for art. Since the mid-80s, he said, he has been able to work full time as an engineer and be what he considers a full time artist. The engineering work, he said, is a cognitive function. "Painting comes from the heart," he said.

A lot of Sammoun's inspiration comes from the heart, as well. He has often painted olive groves in his native Lebanon. Sammoun said the olive tree is particularly meaningful for him. "There are about 1,000 olive

trees in Lebanon that date back to the time of Christ," he said. "You can't kill an olive tree. If you cut it off at the trunk it will grow back."

Sammoun said he pruned in a way that makes them resemble Japanese Bonzai trees.

"Olive trees are also a symbol of peace," he said.

Sammoun chooses to paint other natural scenes, such as fields of wild flowers. He also paints the farm fields full of wheat and corn that surround his adopted home of Montreal, which is another of his favorite subjects. Sammoun said he paints in all seasons, choosing the height of the season to paint. "When I paint in summer, I want the hot spot, maybe sometime in August, when the colors are burnt," he said. "If I paint in spring I want to see flowers."

Sammoun said he chooses to paint a lot in autumn, and particularly likes to paint scenes where it is snowing.

On Aug. 19, Sammoun was on the Washington Street Mall in Cape May painting his rendition of Our Lady Star of the Sea Church. Sammoun said he always prepares his gesso-covered canvas with burnt sienna and burnt umber. He said preparing his canvas this way allows the light to come from the back of the canvas. He said he works with light colors, then dark, then the light again. He said it gives his work a more natural appearance.

Under normal circumstances he would have worked on the painting of the church until he finished, but that day he was taking time out to talk to people about his work. He even stopped to chat with Chloe Jones, 9, of North Cape May. Chloe told Sammoun she was also an artist, saying, "When I paint I don't think of anything else.



Above, artist Samir Sammoun talks art with Chloe Jones, 9, of North Cape May. Sammoun is a native of Lebanon who now lives in Montreal.

It's like there is nothing between me and the canvas." "That's the way it should be," Sammoun told her, adding she should not neglect her other studies. Sammoun

feels his studies in engineering have helped him become a better draftsman. Still, as an Impressionist, his paintings are about creating a mood, and image that speaks to the

observer. Sammoun has been getting recognition for his work across the U.S. and Canada, but has also displayed his work in major European cities like London and Paris. The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston selected one of his paintings for a fundraising event. He was commissioned by the State of New York to create paintings of Lake Champlain for the 400 anniversary of its discovery. He completed 18 paintings, which were exhibited at the Plattsburgh Museum of Art. Most of his exhibits have been in the United States, from places such as Boston and Virginia to Florida, Texas and Los Angeles. He, of course, exhibits his work in Toronto and Montreal, as well.

As of Aug. 17, Sammoun's work has been at the Gallery D'May, where it will continue to show until Sept. 20.

## Harry

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father may have lacked the education one would require from a public official. Although it did not hold him back as a businessman, Harry Hirsch only had a third or fourth grade education. He also continued to speak with a heavy accent, which would have made public speaking difficult. "But those were not the main reasons," Larry Hirsch said. "He wasn't a political person. He had his philosophy and views, and if he didn't like something he would call city hall and speak to the mayor and manager. But he was a private guy in many ways. He never sought public attention."

Most people really didn't know about Harry Hirsch the

death camp survivor. His son said it was something he didn't talk about. However, he was pressured by his grandsons to talk about his experience, and on 2009, a video was made of Harry Hirsch speaking about almost anything and everything regarding the holocaust.

"He was telling the story," Larry Hirsch said. "We already had a sense of who he was. If anything it allowed us to have an oral history of his upbringing, his experience in the concentration camps and what they needed to do to survive."

Hirsch said he is certain the experience of the death camp made his father a stronger person - the kind who would come to America with limited English and become a suc-

cessful businessman. "He was a pillar of the community," Hirsch said. "He gave a lot and in turn Cape May gave a lot to him."

Hirsch said the family brought a bucket of Cape May beach sand to put in his father's grave so he could take with him a little of the town he loved.

The following is the obituary of Harry Hirsch posted on the Montreal Inn's facebook page:

### HARRY HIRSCH

HIRSCH, HARRY 88 - of Cape May passed away peacefully and with dignity on Saturday, August 20th. Harry was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, a deeply admired busi-

nessman, and a highly respected member of the Cape May community. Born in Kucow, Poland in 1923, Harry was 15 years old when the Nazi army invaded Poland, and was imprisoned in Auschwitz one year later. He was one of the few members of his entire family of seven to have survived the horrors of the Holocaust. He and his wife, Sophie immigrated to the United States in 1950. After working as a carpenter in Philadelphia, Harry became a chicken farmer in Corbin City, and later owner of an egg and poultry distribution business in Wildwood. In 1966, Harry and Sophie built The Montreal Inn on Beach Drive in Cape May, which became the cornerstone of the Hirsch Group, a

real estate development company with interests around Cape May County. In 2010, the Hirsch family paid tribute to its patriarch by naming the Montreal Inn's restaurant "Harry's Ocean Bar and Grille" in his honor. Despite the tragic circumstances of his early years, Harry built for himself a life of hard work, kindness, and virtue. His true passion was his family; he cherished his deep, binding relationship with his sons, daughters-in-law, and grandchildren, all of whom will miss him immensely. He is survived by his sons, Larry (Miriam) and Joseph (Amy) and his grandchildren Evan, Jonathan, Sophie and Abbie, and his companion, Ruth Satt. He was predeceased by his wife Sophie, who died in

1975. Harry leaves behind a legacy of love, compassion, perseverance, and survival. Funeral services will be held Monday, August 22nd, at 1:00 PM at Congregation Beth Judah, 700 North Swarthmore Avenue, in Ventnor. He will be interred at Alliance Cemetery in Norma. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations to be made to Beth Judah Temple in Wildwood, Congregation Beth Judah in Ventnor, Seashore Gardens Living Center in Galloway Township, or the Jewish Federation of Atlantic and Cape May Counties in Margate. Arr. by ROTH-GOLDSTEINS' MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Atlantic City. www.rothgoldsteins.com

## Internet

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have it as a student." Simonsen said the municipi-

pality has entered into an agreement with Comcast to start the program in Lower Township, and now it's all

about getting the information out to the public.

"The program makes Internet access affordable to pretty much everybody, but if people don't know about it, then it doesn't help," he said. LCMR and the Richard M. Teitelman School are not the only schools in the county

that have jumped on board with the program, according to Alexander. He said every superintendent and mayor in the county has shown interest in Internet Essentials.

Alexander's section of the Comcast Corporation deals with the Philadelphia area, Bucks County and much of

South Jersey. He said he hopes this program will catch on and provide Internet access to low-income families in need of it.

Those who are eligible will be signed up with Internet Essentials for at least three years and through the end of the 2013-2014 school year. Any household that qualifies during the three-year period will remain eligible provided

the family still qualifies for the program until their child graduates from high school.

For further information about Internet Essentials, visit www.Internetessentials.com or call 1-855-846-8376. For Spanish, visit www.Internetbasico.com or call 1-855-765-6995.

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## Lights

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THE HELP PG-13 (12:00) 3:00, 6:00, 9:00  
PLANET OF THE APES PG-13 (12:15) 2:40, 4:55 7:10, 9:25

or overpasses over top the three local roads.

Interchange ramp connections will then be built between the Parkway and the local cross streets at all three intersections so access to GSP will be maintained. He said this will be done by completing bridges over all three interchanges on the southbound side first, and then doing the same with the interchanges on the northbound side. According to Supervising Engineer John Withers, the project will be underway as soon as the environmental permits and approvals are received.

According to Withers, the Turnpike Authority anticipated the environmental permits in September 2010 so construction could begin in November 2010 and be completed by December 2012. Now, nearly a year later they have yet to receive the FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) - a required document from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that states the project is environmentally safe.

"Once we receive the FONSI, it takes the reins off of us and we can get underway," Withers said.

Project Engineer and Manager Dennis Conklin said a primary reason the FONSI was not received was because of significant archeological points along the parkway that needed to be investigated before the document could be issued.

"I have money in my pocket that says the FONSI won't be here until April," he said.

Conklin gave the public an up-to-date explanation of the project. He said this informational meeting was for answering questions from citizens before the public hearing in early November. He said the public hearing is required by federal law, however, the Turnpike Authority and every other organization involved would not be answering questions at that particular meeting - just listening to comments. Once the hearing is over and the comments are recorded, a formal document would be published in response to the public comment.

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