

About Joan Roth

"Our lives as Jews have always been impacted by the camera. The camera has staggered and stunned us with images of cattle cars filled with faces of fear; and has made our spirits fly with planeloads of beautiful faces filled with hope. Sometimes the camera overwhelms us with the size of our responsibility. Sometimes the sheer numbers make us feel inadequate; 6,000,000 gone 300,000 desperate to escape.

But Joan Roth's camera has helped us to understand ... to see in the most moving way that while we're helping millions of our people, as we're saving hundreds of thousand of Jews, we're also reaching out to individuals, to single souls one at a time! Through Joan Roth's moving sensitive eye, you'll meet some of them in "Remembering Old Bukhara."

--Lion of Judah Conference, Washington D.C. National Women's Division of United Jewish Appeal.

Joan Roth is an award-winning photographer whose powerful images show Jewish communities transcending time, place and race, as they perpetuate and attempt to change the spiritual and cultural environment in which they live. Her photographs are part of some of the most important art collections in the United States and around the world.

Roth photographed Jewish communities in - among other places - Ethiopia, Yemen, and India, at a time when they were still unknown to the majority of the world Jewish community. Now, the scope of this exhibit will bring to life a powerful historic portrait of the Bukharian community; a joyful, dedicated Jewish community that treasured and preserved its culture, traditions and religion for over 2,000 years, surviving even the most brutal, recent, oppression of the former Soviet regime.

Roth's other subjects photographed by Roth include forty years of homeless women in New York City, Jewish and non-Jewish women worldwide; the feminist movement; New York City Streets, and more. Books published under Roth's own imprint, Jolen Press, include, Shopping Bag Ladies of New York; Jewish Women: A World of Tradition and Change (on sale in the Center shop.) Roth is best known for her photographs of Jewish women.