



Sculpture Dedication

The September 9 Shabbat Service will include an event which has far more significance than its brief description: the dedication of our sesquicentennial sculpture. This sculpture tangibly and permanently commemorates Shaaray Tefila's 150th year in a way that only important art can. It speaks directly to the celebrating congregants, evoking a relevant emotional response, and yet transcends the particularity of the congregation.

The noted artist Caryl Picker has created a large bronze piece of an androgynous figure dancing joyfully with the Torah in one hand while inviting us to join the excitement of the movement with the other hand. The sculpture will be in the vestibule of the main entrance to the Community House, dancing and rejoicing between Second Avenue and the Sanctuary.

Only a sculptor with Caryl Picker's artistic credentials and personal history could have conceived such a meaningful work for our 150th anniversary. Her sculptures have been described as "emotional, philosophical, expressive and tactile." They are laden with symbolism expressed in a very personal style which exhibits her intense study of movement and tension. Many of her works in bronze represent different kinds of dance. Her *Tribute to Alvin Ailey* has been praised for its "staccato rhythms of textured bronze . . . heightened by the solidity of the negative spaces." As a result of such work, Caryl Picker was chosen to create a sculpture for the Joffrey Ballet's anniversary evening in celebration of its choreographers.

But dancers are not the only subjects for this sculptor's imagination. One piece Picker feels is able to show much of her philosophic and aesthetic principles is *Prayer of Life*, the portrait of an elderly man, deeply meditative, his head covered with a tallith.

Caryl Picker began her artistic studies at Finch College and continued at such renowned institutions as the Art Students League and Parsons School of Design. Instruction with such notables as Will Barnet, Leon Kroll, Harold Castor and Jim Youngman all have helped pave the way to Picker's achievements. Her technical and aesthetic approach to art and life are merged in a unique vision for Shaaray Tefila's Sesquicentennial celebration.

Come share this exciting moment when the sculpture will be viewed for the first time, following services, on September 9 at 7:30 p.m.

