

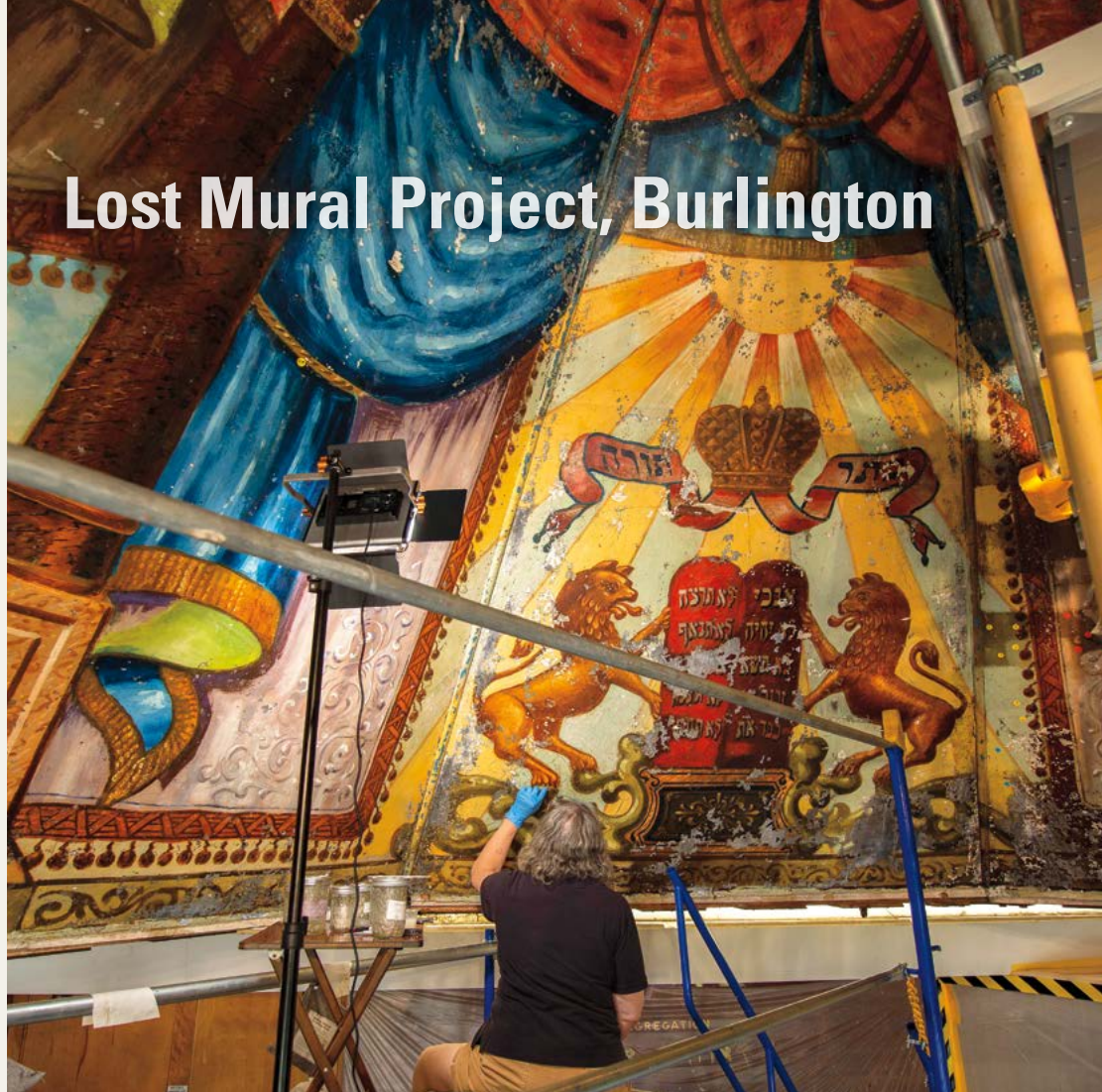
“The Lost Mural Project is not only important for the Jewish community, but the entire community finds meaning in it. It is an important landmark of the story of Burlington and its diversity.”

Governor Madeline Kunin,
Chair of the Friends
of the Mural Board

ON THE COVER:
Bridgewater Community Center,
Bridgewater, VT
Photos by Jude Domski and
Richard Amore



facebook: **The Preservation
Trust of Vermont**
instagram: **preservation_vt**
twitter: **@preservationvt**
www.ptvermont.org



Lost Mural Project, Burlington

The story of the Lost Mural Project in Burlington is a story of survival. Painted by Lithuanian immigrant and sign painter Ben Zion Black in 1910 for a small synagogue in Burlington’s “Little Jerusalem” area of the Old North End, the mural was hidden behind a false wall in 1986 when the building’s use changed. In 2010 when the property was sold again, Aaron Goldberg, archivist for Ohavi Zedek, saw an opportunity to rescue the mural and make it visible for all. Thus began a multi-year fundraising effort and a one-mile journey to secure and lift the mural from its original location and move it to its new location in the lobby of the Ohavi Zedek Synagogue.

The mural itself is one of the largest remaining examples of Lithuanian Folk Art in the world (most such art was destroyed by the Nazis), yet the organizers behind the project see its relocation and restoration as an opportunity to tell a much bigger story: the story of American immigrants seeking a better place. It is an opportunity to understand why our communities are the way they are and to understand our sense of belonging. It is also an opportunity to understand what it means to be a welcoming community.

As Friends of the Mural board advisor Sarah Muyskens says, “The mural depicts people coming into the tent of the tabernacle. That’s really what we would like to do. Gather people under the tent to have the conversation about what it means to be a survivor, an immigrant, a Vermonter.”

A \$5,000 grant from the Paul A. Bruhn Fund will support cleaning the mural, a necessary step prior to complete restoration.