



SHALOM

To the people of the city of **Ashkelon, Israel** - Greetings from the Upper West Side of the Borough of Manhattan in the City of New York, USA! **The West Side Arts Coalition** salutes you! We are proud and honored to be invited to your beautiful city to exhibit the works by our members at the Khan Museum.

Artists have always felt welcome on the Upper West Side where every ethnic group, every culture, every religion, has celebrated each other's differences and nurtured a love of the arts. Dancers, painters, musicians, sculptors, writers, poets, actors, craftspeople, call the Upper West Side home. And through the years, hundreds of these artists have found another home - the **West Side Arts Coalition**.

In 1979, a group of artists and friends of the arts formed an organization which would provide a supportive environment on the Upper West Side for artists from all disciplines to show their work. The West Side Arts Coalition was born.

For many years, the Coalition led a nomadic life, meeting in schools and churches in the neighborhood. In 1986, it settled into a small, but charming Beaux Arts building in the center of Broadway and 96th St. - the heart of the Upper West Side. The little building had an interesting history, starting life as a "comfort" station (or public restroom) before being renovated to form the Broadway Mall Community Center. Once the Coalition had a permanent gallery space, its dream of bringing all the artistic disciplines to the community became a reality.

Today, the gallery is a beehive of artistic events from September through June, - new art exhibits every three weeks, poetry readings, performances, workshops, social gatherings, all welcoming the community with open arms. Membership is open to artists and friends of the arts from every part of the world, and includes support from local businesses and organizations. The nominal membership fee includes a monthly newsletter that chronicles members' activities as well as outside artistic opportunities open to members. The Coalition's business is conducted by a staff of volunteers who are elected by the membership to serve as officers and board members.

Upper West Siders are proud of their community and its unique attractions - Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, The Museum of Natural History, Columbia University and of course, that world-famous bastion of deli delights, Zabar's! Now, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the people of the Ashkelon Khan Museum, the Upper West Side has another source of pride - an **international** arts organization, the West Side Arts Coalition.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the West Side Arts Coalition,
Thank you, Ashkelon!

RAÚL MANZANO
PRESIDENT