

World Renown Muralist Creates Masterpiece At AVM

By Cheryl Conway

Many have probably walked by it a dozen times but fail to realize or take notice the work of art behind that wall.

Next time while visiting Turkey Brook Park in Budd Lake- whether at a soccer game or baseball game, playing on the Mt. Playmore playground, cooling off at the Splash Pad, taking a walk, riding a bike or better yet attending the upcoming Remembrance Day Ceremony set for Monday, May 27, visit the All Veterans Memorial and check out the latest addition- The POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall, located on the backside of the Liberty Wall.

Built to honor and remember the POW/MIA and PTSD warriors, the POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall features a one-of a kind mural designed by remarkable world-renown mural artist Doron Viner. Completed about a year ago in April 2018, the mural designs were created by AVM Founder and President Charlie Wood Uhrmann, who then sought out the finest muralist she could find to complete this element of her memorial site.

“After speaking to him for the first time, I could feel his passion not only to the project, but for our nation,” says Uhrmann. His story is a great one. He was very persistent in offering his services.“

When Uhrmann posted a search for an artist capable of outdoor mural painting on the Thumbtack Website, Viner responded within minutes of the posting.

“Viner was eager to donate his talent to paint the mural as part of a fulfillment to renew his United States on an Exceptional Talent Visa,” she explains. “Viner lives in New York, served in the Israeli Army which is mandatory for all men in Israel.”

The POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance wall was built on the backside of the Liberty Wall, which displays the first ten Amendments of the original Bill of Rights and the three branches of government, explains Uhrmann.

Uhrmann sponsored the wall along with Peter King, an attorney AVM board member; Quikrete

Concrete of Flanders; and The Meier Stone Company.

“The uniquely designed 70' remembrance wall displays three prison cells,” explains Uhrmann.

“The first cell depicts the agony of a POW. The second cell symbolizes the MIA warriors that never returned. The third cell, which was added by the AVM Board of directors to be included with the POW/MIA is the PTSD.”

Uhrmann and the AVM board members could not have been more wowed by the completed work of art and even recognized Viner by presenting him with a letter of acknowledgement and commendation in February.

Viner, who owns WorldWide Murals based in Israel, also received Meritorious awards from the All Veterans Memorial, the Morris County American Legion, the Wharton American Legion Post 91, and the All Veterans Alliance, for his local masterpiece.

“The most critical focal point of the project was a 6’ x 65’ deeply pitted concrete wall that would feature a compelling mural that would capture the pure essence of war suffrage,” Uhrmann wrote in a commendation letter recognizing Viner. “More critical than the design itself, was the search for an artist who possessed an interpretive artistic talent and ability to embellish the overall design if needed. This was an exceptionally difficult project that required an exceptional skillset.

“Doron Viner was the first to respond to our detailed posting,” she writes. “Though he fulfilled all of our requirements and provided several professional references that praised Mr. Viner’s remarkable talent, we were taken by his offer to donate his services. Though his offer was extremely attractive, it was his gesture to show his appreciation to the nation and our service members that caught our attention. In addition to his talent, Mr. Viner’s honesty and passion left us with little debate as to who we would entrust with this extremely important addition to the park.

“It was an honor and privilege to work alongside one of the most talented and passionate artists I have ever had the pleasure to work with,” writes Uhrmann. “Mr. Viner’s genuine love for our country and the All Veterans Memorial was obvious as we watched him share his ‘proud moment’ and excitement with his family and friends. Not only are we grateful for Mr. Viner’s generous gift of the meaningful masterpiece that will touch thousands of lives for many years to come, but his daily display of unwavering love and dedication to his family and core values.”

Meet The Muralist

Like a vine, Viner’s work grows on all who take notice. From 2015-2016, Viner volunteered for two series as the main artist of the television show Extreme Makeover, a show that helps unfortunate people to rebuild houses.

“Viner turns a simple empty room into an astonishing muraled room,” as it states on his website. His “unique talent enables him to create the perfect real life 3-dimensional mural. Forming the ideal setting and atmosphere everywhere.”

The 43-year old has painting most of his life.

“When I was young I painted,” says Viner. When his mom saw his talent, she took him for lessons.

“I saw that I had fun and decided to make it a career,” says Viner. He started with air brush, “then went to murals to create as many walls as possible and as big as they can get.”

He says one of his murals is featured in the “Guinness Book of World Records” noted as the largest mural by one man. The four-mile long mural is the landscape of Venice, Italy and hangs inside a mall in Hodhashron, Israel. It took him one year to complete back in 2015.

Born in Israel, Viner moved to the United States with his family when he was 10 years old. Living in New York City, Viner attended La Guardia High School in Manhattan and expanded his skills in art.

When he turned 18, he decided to return to Israel for three years to serve in the Israeli Army as a paratrooper.

After his service, he created his company WorldWide Murals in 2000, working as a muralist for the past 20 years.

“Israel didn’t have a lot of mural artists,” says Viner. “I brought murals into Israel,” and “in time got very famous.” He did art shows and his work hit Google.

“Over the years, using the skills and techniques he acquired by painting graffiti on walls of the city streets, he created fabulous murals using the airbrush,” as stated on his website. “His work soon spread, painting murals all over, at stores, firms, companies, hotels, corporation and theme parks, as stated on his website.

Two years ago, he decided to move back to New York with his family- a wife and three daughters ages 4, 6 and 8. Living in the U.S. on a Visa, Viner also brought his WorldWide Murals company, restarting it in the U.S. in 2017.

“To live there it’s incredible,” Viner says about Israel; but for work and talent America is the place to be. “Most of the winners for the Olympics are American. Israel is a small county; America is big; I decided to go big. That’s why I came here. I saw a talent; I’m one of them. I wanted to expand.”

“When I got here, I did many works, was on CBS,” he says, and worked on the memorial site in N.Y.

Some of his clients include Mastercard, Nestle, Coca-Cola, Leonardo club hotels, King City amusement park, Dan Panorama hotels, Fattal hotels and many more.

“I do a lot of amusement parks, restaurants, malls,” says Viner, adding that he does “all kinds of murals; whatever people ask, I do; whatever makes people happy.”

No matter the project, perfection is always his goal.

“Sometimes other artists work with me,” he says, but they “must be very talented to work with me. I always love it when it’s perfection.”

His strongest ones are those that are very emotional, like the AVM POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall.

He learned about the need for a muralist at the AVM on the internet, he says. “I told her [Charlie] I was a soldier in the army. She liked the whole package about me for the project.”

As someone who fought in the army, the AVM mural project was an important one for Viner to complete.

“The army is part of me,” says Viner. “I understand the people who were there. You got to honor them, in any country.” Now that he is here, he says he needs ‘to honor the people in this country.’”

While he gets paid for his work, Viner decided to complete the POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall mural as a volunteer without any compensation.

“It was something extraordinary,” says Viner. “This work I decided to go do; it’s for my achievement, my personal achievement.”

To paint his murals, Viner uses regular wall paint and works with a pistol gun or air brush.

“That makes it more extraordinary,” says Viner. “It makes the mural more alive.”

The POW/MIA/PTSD Remembrance Wall took Viner two weeks to complete. He met with Uhrmann to think about “how to make it extraordinary; to have veterans see it and the emotions in that memorial site.” They decided to depict soldiers who were tortured to show what they went through, he says.

To prepare, Viner had to research American wars “to determine how to get the right picture for the project,” says Viner. He says he “did research and understanding and I built up my own sketch.”

“I think I did a good job,” says Viner. “Charlie did a fabulous job. It’s one of the beautiful memorial sites I’ve ever seen. Charlie is an extraordinary person. She does it to the fullest; an amazing person, amazing talent.”

His love for painting shines through with every stroke.

“I love the outcome,” says Viner. “I love creating for others to enjoy. I love to see how it affects people. I love when they come and see and say ‘wow.’ Once you paint big, one you see they are painting huge, it’s extraordinary. It’s not something you see every day.”

Whether it is for a private home or a large project, Viner paints murals for residents and , commercial projects.

“I love big,” says Viner. “I love making people smile, whether it’s one person or 10,000 people.”

Go to www.worldwideart.com or call 917-669-7300 for more information on WorldWide Murals.

Save The Date

The AVM's POW/MIA/PTSD ceremonial ground is one of the official sites for the National POW/MIA Vigil Ceremony.

The vigil ceremonial site addition provides N.J. veterans a place to conduct memorial services for fallen warriors and serve as an official place to host the annual National POW/MIA Remembrance Vigil.

"Mark your calendar" for Friday, September 20 to attend this year’s event planned by the All Veterans Alliance and Morris County American Legion.

“More than 400 bags of concrete were stacked five courses high to depict a sandbag wall,” says Uhrmann, and was donated by Quikrete in Flanders, to be used as seating for reflection or during the vigils.

“A large steal world globe was specifically created by artist Rick Wittrig of Firepit Art located in Tennessee in honor of our POW/MIA's missing all over the world,” she continues.

“The Globe will be used only during the National Vigil Ceremony which is typically held annually the third week of September,” she concludes.

The All Veterans Memorial (AVM) is a registered 501 (c) 3 organization that has provided a variety of outreach services to active and retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces for more than 12 years. In addition to support services, we have developed an exclusive veteran’s park that provides a venue for formal military events, while delivering a unique educational denotation of our Nation’s rich history for the public.