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2B MONDAY, JULY 22, 2002 · NEWS

LOCAL

## Mural replaces temple graffiti

### Neighbors help paint out vandalism

BY PETER BERNARD  
STAFF WRITER

Almost two weeks have passed since Coral Springs resident Paula Canning heard, along with many others in her community, that the nearby Chabad Lubavitch temple had been attacked by anti-Semitic vandals.

"I was horrified by what happened," said Canning of the four swastikas that were sprayed on the temple's back wall over the July Fourth weekend. "To see that kind of hate in a community where so many Jewish people live is disturbing

to me."  
So like hundreds of others from the surrounding community, Canning went to Chabad of Coral Springs on Sunday to help paint a mural where the symbols of hate were so recently scrawled.

"I came and I brought my daughters so I can teach them that when something like this happens, there are things you can do to about it," Canning said.

Community volunteers, government agencies, other Jewish temples and corporate donors teamed up with Deerfield Beach artist David Schluss to paint over the graffiti, replacing it with a colorful mural depicting people dancing and celebrating on Jerusalem's Western Wall.

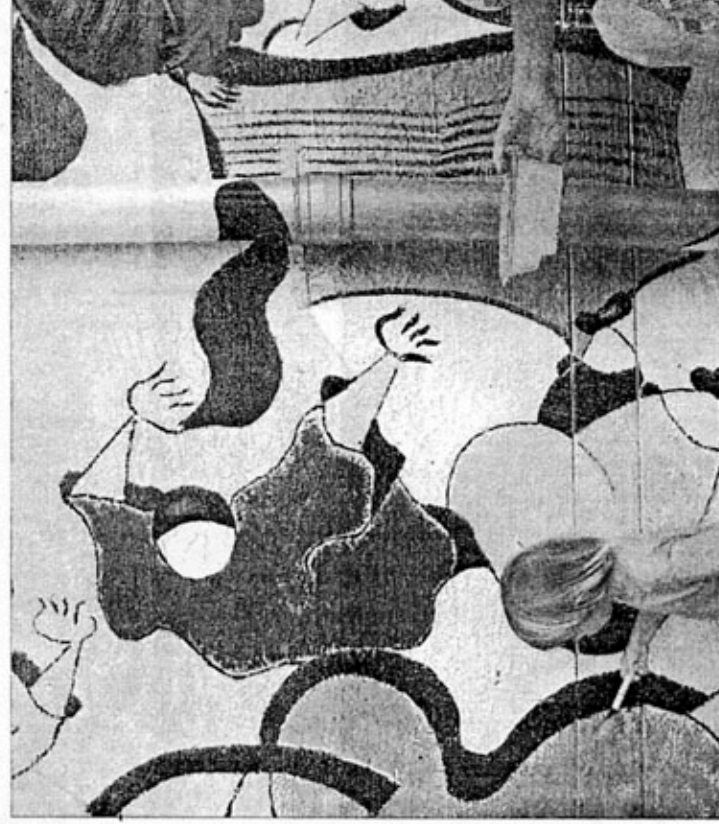
Schluss left parts of his mu-

ral blank so Sunday's visitors could paint them in with solid colors after a brief program.

"We've spent a lot of time on this because we wanted to take something negative and turn it into something positive for the whole world to see," said Rabbi Yossie Denburg of Chabad Lubavitch. "The outpouring of love and support from the community has been incredible. A spark of human kindness has been fanned into a flame."

Before people lined up for their turn with the paintbrush, the crowd heard warnings about the dangers of hate and bigotry from a number of guest speakers, including U.S. Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fort Lauderdale, and state Sen. Mandy Dawson, D-Fort Lauderdale.

"I am of the human faith, and I stand with you," Dawson said.



**ARTISTS:**  
Gali Rotkopf of Parkland, right, watches her son Bar Rotkopf, 3, add touches to a mural on the back wall of Chabad Lubavitch temple. The mural covers swastikas that vandals painted on the wall early this month. Staff photo/Melissa Lyttle

"The whole community stands with you."

Samantha Canning, Paula Canning's daughter, spent a few minutes carefully brushing green paint onto the mural.

"This is going to be a great painting," Samantha said. "I'm proud of it."

The 135-family Orthodox synagogue opened its doors in March. Last month, former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke at a fundraiser for Israel sponsored by the temple.

A week before the graffiti appeared, vandals broke some

of the temple windows with rocks. Coral Springs police say the two incidents are under investigation.

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