

STRAUS' ART IN PLANNED COMMUNITIES



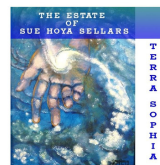
One of Straus' first commissions, a sculpture called "The Sewing Woman" (below) was for a New Deal community called the Jersey Homesteads, established specifically for resettled Jewish garment workers. Straus also created a frog playground piece (above) for a Public Works Administration project called Langston Terrace in Washington D.C., a community built in 1937 primarily for African Americans and designed by prominent African American architect, Hilyard Robinson.



This exhibit was a project of the Greenbelt Museum that ran from June 2015 to 2019. It was generously sponsored by the following:



Todd M. Turner
County Council
4th District



"THE STONE WILL STAND LONG
AFTER HANDS ARE GONE"
- LENORE THOMAS STRAUS

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THE KNOWING HANDS THAT CARVE THIS STONE

THE NEW DEAL ART OF
LENORE THOMAS STRAUS



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GREENBELT MUSEUM



LENORE THOMAS STRAUS was a young, self-taught artist when she carved significant, large scale works for New Deal relief agencies in the late 1930s and early 1940s such as the Resettlement Agency that built Greenbelt, Maryland--one of three Green Towns that were bold experiments in town planning. These towns often featured art in the form of free-standing sculpture, murals, and friezes.

Following her federal employment, Lenore Thomas Straus continued working as a sculptor and artist at her home and studio in Accokeek, Maryland and later, in Maine, where she died in 1988 at the age of 75. Along with other WPA works, her art continues to inspire today and leaves a stunning visual record of who and what America was in the 1930s.

WHERE TO FIND STRAUS'

PREAMBLE TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
BAS RELIEFS,
COMMUNITY CENTER



Straus carved a series of limestone bas relief panels on the front outer wall of Center School (now the Community Center) illustrating the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. They depicted average Americans in a style called social realism that focused on social issues and the struggles of everyday life.



Woodblock prints by Straus are located to the left of the Community Center's 1st floor main office across from the Visitor's Desk.

WORKS IN GREENBELT

MOTHER & CHILD,
ROOSEVELT CENTER



Dedicated in 1939, the Mother and Child statue is in the center of Greenbelt, Maryland. Straus' last sculpture for the Resettlement Administration weighs 12 tons and is carved from three massive blocks of limestone.

WOMAN

A gift from Straus' daughter, this sculpture can be found outside on the SW corner of the Community Center.

