



## A Mind for Metal

Zammy Migdal

Making the jump from hotel manager to sculptor might seem difficult to some, but for Zammy Migdal the transition was as smooth as the metal he welds for each of his pieces. Formerly the general manager of the Indian Creek hotel, Migdal decided to pursue his interest in sculpting full time when the hotel went under new management. He began taking classes through ArtCenter in South Beach and the University of Miami.

"It was like a disease hit me," he says. Since then, his work has appeared at Art Miami, Art Basel, in the Design District and in Palm Beach.

His latest work, titled *Zechor*, (Hebrew for "remember") was commissioned by Temple Beth Am in Pinecrest and stands in the middle of its courtyard as a memorial and tribute to all Jews. The

15-foot-tall metal structure uses the 27 letters of the Hebrew alphabet and intertwines them in a semi-circle to reflect the connection amongst all Jews. At its center is the word "chai," or "life" in Hebrew.

"I wanted something abstract but with a clear message at the same time," Migdal says. "The moment I saw that the plaza was between the sanctuary and day school I knew that I wanted to use the Hebrew alphabet."

Walking around the sculpture to view it from all sides, each observer can choose letters to form the names of their loved ones. "It's a universal memorial," he says. "It's for the past but it's also for the future."

— Natalia Maldonado