

**June 7, 2019 article in Boston Globe's *Talking Points AM* newsletter  
by Larry Edelman, Boston Globe Deputy Managing Editor**



One portion of Ed Sokoloff's "History on Canvas."

**Memory lane:** In January, when **Sears** was teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, I did a fun piece [name-checking retailers](#) that had previously gone out of business. Many readers e-mailed or posted comments with fond memories of chains no longer with us. But it wasn't until a month ago that I heard from **Ed Sokoloff**, who wrote to me about his work collecting images of old businesses and vintage products. He started with single subject collages, such as Massachusetts ice cream shops, then decided to expand. In an e-mail Sokoloff, 77, explained how he made the multi-subject "History on Canvas." I've included an image of a portion of the work above; the full canvas is on display at Hebrew SeniorLife in Roslindale, where Sokoloff is on the board of trustees.

- "Every picture represents something vintage, including companies that no longer exist or had name changes, places that no longer exist, and products that are iconic. It took over the

course of two years to accomplish my goal. . . . Many of the iconic items displayed in the collage were purchased on the internet. Some pictures were taken at antique shops, antique shows, and general stores. . . . The picture of the typewriter with keys was taken at Cambridge Typewriter, now located in Arlington, which repairs typewriters and is also like a typewriter museum."

Sokoloff says he was born and raised in Boston, where he still lives.

- "In 2013, I completed the first collage consisting of a 3-panel piece of greater Boston restaurants. It contains more than 3,000 places, and historically preserves the names of more than 1,000 restaurants which have closed or undergone name changes. In the past two years, I was twice honored to do one-person artist exhibitions in the Boston area. In San Francisco where the Marines Memorial Association's Gold Star Parents annual event is held, the original version of my American Flags collage is hung in the area of the Tribute Memorial Wall which contains the names of all military personnel lost in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11."

Thanks, Ed. Your work is great.