

BEGINNING...AGAIN BY RABBI JEN TOBENSTEIN

A few weeks ago, I read an article about a new unit of Army Reserve officers whose unique mission it is to identify and preserve cultural treasures around the world that are threatened by conflict and war. Many of these newly minted soldiers came to their mission with impressive civilian resumes in academia and curatorship and were inspired to volunteer by the famed Monuments Men and Women of World War II (who recovered millions of artifacts looted by the Nazis). I was fascinated by the great risk they have taken upon themselves not only to safeguard a people and land in the throes of conflict, but also its cultural heritage.

Reflecting on their mission, I wondered what, in moments of crisis, I would consider indispensable. There are of course, the existential common denominators that many of us share: our families, friends, and communities, our personal and public health, our belief system, our home, and country, etc. But what other elements of life help make us who we are? What parts of our material and ideological heritage help feed our very existence? What fills us with awe?

Distilling these questions is the project of the *Yamim Nora'im*, the Season and Days of Awe which are upon us. Another year has passed with its joys and challenges, its losses, and accomplishments. We stand at its precipice looking back and looking forward, considering what we need to bridge the journey between, and pausing to appreciate the wonder. We ask: what elements of awe are worth preserving against odds for generations to come?

What can we leave behind in the conflicts and chaos of 5782? And leave behind in the conflicts and chaos of 5782? And how do we enter 5783 not with a blank slate, but with one curated with the treasures and lessons of the past to inform a better future?

Each time we communally return our Torah scrolls to the ark, we sing: "*Hashiveinu*, turn us towards You, *Adonai*, *ve'nashuva*, and we will return to you; *hadesh yameinu*, make our days fresh, renewed, *ke'kedem*, as they once were." The process of turning and returning, which is celebrated not only in this holiday season but each time we publicly read from the Torah, concludes with a plea for the ability to renew ourselves. As the great teacher and Nobel Prize winning author, Elie Wiesel, once taught, "God gave Adam a secret, and that secret was not how to begin, but how to begin again." In this season of beginning again, may we all find the strength and purpose to gather that which is most precious in our lives to be our own monument men and women and make our way forward into a brighter and better new year.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you all for welcoming me and my family into the Temple Israel community to learn, pray, and celebrate together as we begin the new year. I look forward to engaging in meaningful discussions, learning opportunities, and getting to know you over the next few months. *Shana tova u'metukah*.

Best wishes for a renewing, meaningful, and sweet New Year.

- Rabbi Jen Tobenstein

HIGH HOLIDAYS UPDATE

High Holiday Services: We are pleased to be hosting a full slate of in-person services, led by Rabbi Jennifer Tobenstein and our very own Cantor Marc Stober. Rabbi Jen will be co-officiating Shabbat services on Sept 17th for the bat mitzvah of Sophie Depasse so you can meet her before the HHDs. The schedule of services is included with this issue. You can also find the calendar on our website at www.templeisraelmht.org.

New Machzors Dedications: All 100 of our Machzor Lev Shalem have been dedicated.

New Sukkah/Yard Revitalization: We will be dismantling our current sukkah on September 11. At the same time, we will be sprucing up the back yard and clearing old furniture and other items from the building.

High Holiday Honey: Don't forget to send honey to your family, friends, and fellow TI members for a sweet new year! The deadline for free shipping for orders going to TI members has been moved to September 8. If you need a form or information about ordering online, please contact Christine in the office at 603.622.6171 or office@templeisraelmht.org.

Book of Life: If you have not sent in your form for listings in our Book of Life, please do so before September 10. If you need a form, please contact Christine in the office at 603.622.6171 or office@templeisraelmht.org.

Tzedaka

Rabbi Eric Cohen in memory of Eva & Gerald Cohen
 Millie Rosenberg in memory of Leon Rosenberg
 Dan Sklar in memory of David & Klara Sklar

Rosalind Ladd in memory of Arline Ekman
 Carol & Bob Sternberg in memory of Gerry Kaplan
 Aviva Thaler in memory of Ruth Davis

Other Donations

Rabbi Gary & Iris Atkins in honor of David Fineblit
 Renee Brenner in honor of Isadora Zlotowicz
 Michael Fedder to the general fund
 Molly & Rick Notkin for summer BBQs
 Carol & Bob Sternberg in honor of Rachel Spierer

Jennifer Beard & Jeff Salloway in honor of the Kiddush Krew
 Carol Cohen in honor of Bill Cohen
 Bonnie & David Massarik for summer BBQs
 Carol & Bob Sternberg in honor of Rabbi Gary Atkins



- Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies
- Our Temple Board for meaningful service options and activities
- Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues
- Stephen Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans
- David Winthrop for maintaining our yahrzeit boards and Torahs
- Michael Sydney for overseeing the Hebrew Cemetery and our Hebrew School building upgrades
- The Singer/Sydney family for groundskeeping services
- John Weber for his financial acumen and continued support
- Carol Sternberg Chairperson of Kitchen Krew, Lunches and Gift Shop
- Kiddush Krew – Renee Brenner, Ken Cohn, Josh Nathan, Merle Paltrow, Carol Pressman, Rachel Spierer, Carol Sternberg & David Winthrop
- Ruth Chevion for her wonderful stories about her family's escape from the Holocaust to America

Special mentions . . .

- ❖ We are grateful to Liz & Larry Eckman for their very generous donation to the Hebrew Cemetery
- ❖ Many thanks to Ruth Chevion for sharing her family's story and gift in support Kol Israel



Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is open!
 For information about our school or to register,
 please visit www.templeisraelmht.org

The Temple Israel Gift Shop is Open!

- Yom Tov Challah Board - \$25
- Challah Knife - \$20
- Candlesticks - \$25.
- Hamsa - \$25
- Blue Enameled Mezuzahs - \$30

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Alias Jan Bogusz by Ruth Chevion

One time my father came home with a story. He had been to New Jersey that day and had stopped to eat at a luncheonette in Bayonne. We lived in Brooklyn then. We had already been in America for about five years, so this happened around 1957.

As he sat eating at the lunch counter, a man leaned over sideways and peered into his face. "Janek?" he asked incredulously. "Jan Bogusz?" Using my father's wartime alias and speaking Polish, the man asked, "Czy to ty?... 'Pamiętasz mnie?" Is it you? Do you remember me?

Yes of course my father remembered him. The two of them had traveled together for a period of time. They had met during a surprise Nazi roundup of men. My father had grabbed the man's outstretched hand and pulled him up into the bed of a moving truck. They had covered themselves up with some straw and got away.

"My eleven children pray for you every night," the man told him.

We heard other stories about Jan Bogusz at home. There had been a wanted poster out for him — he was known to the Nazis, not as a Jew, but as a member of the Armia Krajowa, i.e the Polish Home Army, the underground resistance movement.

The Gestapo actually did catch him one time for being a Polish resistance fighter, and beat him almost to death, knocked out all his side teeth, then threw his seemingly dead body onto a pile of corpses. During the night he came to and crawled away.

There was a two-inch scar on the back of his scalp, about a quarter inch wide where hair didn't grow, where a Nazi bullet had grazed him. How many people do you know who were shot at by Nazis and lived to have a scar from it? It was a noticeable scar in his otherwise thick hair.

As Churchill once famously quipped: "There is nothing more exhilarating than to be shot at with no result."

I can't say for sure that being grazed by a Nazi bullet had an effect on his personality, but it is consistent let's say, with the attitude my father projected as Jan Bogusz.

There was the time he rented a room and told the landlady to take down the cross over the bed. "Take it down, I don't want that." Imagine that. He didn't want it. Not the way to behave when you're a Jew under cover. Call it bravado perhaps.

Confronted once by a pair of bounty hunters looking for Jews they could turn in for cash, when they ordered him to pull down his pants, he pushed them aside and got rid of them using only curses and the force of his personality.

My dad didn't mind being called Janek (Ya'-nek). There were several people who called him that, Aunt Hilda for one, and others who had met him during or shortly after the war. Janek had a certain personality. A bottle of Slivovitz might appear. Janek liked to have a drink, and to laugh and kid around.

I wish I had asked my dad more questions about what he did in the Polish resistance. It must have been significant if there was a wanted poster out for him. But he did tell me a couple

of things. He told me how it was organized. He had one partner with whom he worked. There were another two men they occasionally joined up with. They did not know the identities of any other members.

He told me about the sadness he had. His one partner, the one he mostly worked with, after the war, when my father revealed to him that he was a Jew, became irate, and would not speak to him after that. The man, and I'm sorry to say I don't remember his name, was deeply insulted that my father had not trusted him with that information. They had after all trusted each other with their lives.

Another sadness was that my father suffered from survivor guilt after the war. One time when I was grown and we were sitting in the car, he talked to me about it on a feeling level. It bothered him that he had had a good time.

It is curious to me that my father kept his Jan Bogusz *kennkarte*. He brought it with him to America. I still have it. It was as though he never entirely dropped his alias.

Here is a photo of the inside center page of my dad's *Kennkarte*. It was an excellent false *Kennkarte* in the sense that it was not forged, but actually issued by the Gestapo.





SEPTEMBER 2022

5 ELUL 5782 TO 3 TISHREI 5783

Happy Birthday!

- Sep 1 - Stephen Saulten
- Sep 5 - Ken Cohn
- Sep 6 - Benjamin DePasse
- Sep 9 - Marc Stober
- Sep 10 - Jay Zax
- Sep 13 - Morris Steinbock
- Sep 15 - Denise Rudman
- Sep 18 - Aaron Sommers
- Sep 19 - Jeffrey Coleman Salloway
- Sep 20 - Judson Belmont
- Sep 21 - Danny Geller
- Sep 21 - Laurel Geller
- Sep 21 - Helena Guttman
- Sep 24 - Ido Preis
- Sep 25 - Georgia Schill
- Sep 27 - Ron Deeter

HAPPY Anniversary

- Tiffany & Daniel Cohen
- Sep 5 - 22 years
- Catherine & Michael Davidow
- Sep 6 - 14 years
- Dina & John Weber
- Sep 9 - 49 years
- Morgan & Peter Hallock
- Sep 27 - 13 years

Non-holiday Religious Services and Events at a Glance

- Morning Minyans – every Wednesday at 7:00am
- September 9 – 6:00pm – Welcome Back Family Shabbat & Dinner with Soloist Ariel Strasser and Cantor Marc Stober. RSVP by September 9
- September 14 – 4:30pm – ZOOM Jewish Book Club Meeting
- September 17 – 9:30am – Sophie DePasse bat Mitzvah and Shabbat Service
- September 17 – 7:00pm – Joint Selichot Service at Temple Adath Yeshurun
- September 18 – 9:00am – Welcome Back to Hebrew School!

Mazel Tov to
Sophia Paige DePasse

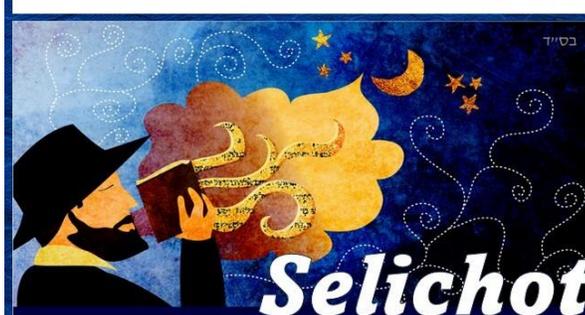


On her upcoming bat Mitzvah
Sep 17 @ 9:30am
Ki Tavo

Erev Rosh Hashanah – Sep 25, 6:30 pm
Rosh Hashanah Day 1 – Sep 26, 9:00 am
Rosh Hashanah Day 2 – Sep 27, 9:00 am



TEMPLE ISRAEL  and  TEMPLE ADATH YESHURUN



Selichot

*We will formally usher in
The Days of Awe*

*Officiated by
Rabbi Beth Davidson
Rabbi Jen Tobenstein*

September 17th ~ 7:00pm
*Hosted by Temple Adath Yeshurun
(note: masks required)*