

A MESSAGE FROM RABBI GARY ATKINS

I want to extend a "thank you" to Temple Israel and its members for arranging a delicious kiddush in my honor at my last service as your interim rabbi on Saturday, June 11. I extend special thanks to President Josh Nathan for his support and sharing over the year, to Heidi and Mike Miller for physically taking care of the kiddush, to the members who attended, and to those who wrote sharing why they could not while wishing Iris and myself thanks and good lives for the future.

Special thanks to Christine for doing everything needed to support my leadership in the office and also for the surprise print congratulating me on my service during this pandemic year. Photo attached (the artwork is Iris'.) I will find wall space for it to grace our home.

In my remarks I talked about the "Priestly Blessing" that we read in the Torah portion, and I shared the blessing with those present. The blessing is telepathic and therefore reached you as well!

Rabbi Gary (and Iris) Atkins



Memorial Tzedaka

Arlene Alpert in memory of Rose Levine
Daniel Cohen in memory of Michael Cohen
Ken Cohn & Maureen DeLeasa in memory of Albert Cohen
Caroline & Richard Ekman in memory of Arline Ekman
Ellie & Leonard Green in memory of Bernard Goodman
Elinor Green in memory of Leon Werner
Rosalind Ladd in memory of Sonia B. Ekman
Rochelle & Gary Lindner in memory of Shirley Lindner

Phyllis Levine in memory of Rose Levine
Debbie Manning in memory of Augusta Goldberg
Michele Plotkin in memory of Sarah Plotkin
Al Shamash in memory of Isaac Shamash
Robert Smith in memory of Hyman Smith
Morris Steinbock in memory of Joseph Steinbock, MD
Isadora Zlotowicz in memory of Leah Bialo

Other Donations

Ruth Chevion in honor of Rabbi Gary Atkins
Merchants Automotive towards cemetery expenses
Al Shamash for healing
Al Shamash to kiddush/dinners
Al Shamash to the Annual Fundraiser
Carol & Bob Sternberg in memory of Bill Cohen

Carol & Bob Sternberg towards the Annual Fundraiser
Bernice Taube in honor of Rabbi Gary
TI Morning Minyan Group to the American Cancer Relay
TI Morning Minyan Group in memory of Bill Cohen
TI Morning Minyan Group to the Hebrew Cemetery Fund
Pastor Phil Tuttle for our Hebrew School



- 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 – Benay Birch, Renee Brenner, Ken Cohn, Josh Nathan, Merle Paltrow, Carol Pressman, Rachel Spierer, Carol Sternberg & David Winthrop

Special thanks to Bernice Taube for her generous donation to the Taube Kiddush Fund.

Escape from the Tarnow Ghetto by Ruth Chevion

When the lights were finally turned off on the train, Alex, my uncle, who was 19 years old at the time, pulled his cap down over his face, and allowed himself to think over the first few hours of his escape from the ghetto.

Overall, it was a success. There was one mistake for which he castigated himself. He had made brief eye contact with the Gestapo officer who inspected his identity booklet. Curiosity had overcome his determination. It could have ended right there. Luckily, the German moved on.

If a woman made a mistake like this, she could probably get away with it. But for men, arousing any suspicion could lead to the inspection of body parts. Polish men were not circumcised. Later on, Alex would undergo a surgery for this, but for now, it was imperative to simply pass for Polish without suspicion. Eye contact was forbidden.

He went over it in his mind. He had snuck out of the ghetto after dark, wearing a dark overcoat with the yellow Jewish armband attached to the sleeve, a traditional Polish cap with vizor on his head. He carried a small (mostly empty) suitcase. He walked unhurriedly.

Once outside the ghetto wall, at the first opportunity, he removed the Star of David armband. Suddenly he was free. Suddenly he was not a Jew. It was strange to be without the armband. After years of wearing it, he had become accustomed to being a slave. Everyone wore it. Being a slave had become ordinary. Now suddenly by ripping off this rag, he was free. Amazingly free. This new freedom was exhilarating. In the moment he controlled his excitement, but he would talk about it for the rest of his life, as though there were not enough words to describe the first taste of freedom.

At the same time, he had been terrified, with good reason: 1. He was outside the ghetto without permission, 2. without an armband or patch, 3. after curfew, 4. on a street forbidden for Jews to walk on, and 5. carrying false ID without the word JUDE stamped on it - all five actions punishable by death.

While walking thus to the train he suppressed any thoughts of his mother. Her tears, her entreaties were heavy on him. The special close relationship he shared with his mother was over now. He must not think of it. Thoughts reveal emotion. Emotion reveals the Jew.

By contrast, thinking of his brother's insulting words the previous night, words like "snot-nose kid, irresponsible adventurer" and so on, actually had the opposite effect. For some reason, those words bucked him up. Alex was actually doing something, not sitting in the ghetto waiting for help from God.

This business of how to think had been a major part of Alex's preparation in the months before his escape. Observing Jews, Germans, and Poles, he had come to the realization that people's thoughts were not concealed by their skin and their clothes. He realized that if he was going to survive on the Aryan side he had to think like a Pole. He had to become the Jan Migon he was impersonating. Not just pretend to be Jan Migon, but actually be Jan Migon.

One person Alex observed during his preparation was his Uncle Ephraim. Alex liked Ephraim. Ephraim was soft and kind. A religious man with beard and peyot who made his living assisting his wife in their fabrics shop, Ephraim might have been replaced by a rolling ladder, as his only duty was to bring down bolts of cloth when so requested by Raisel, his wife. Ephraim mumbled a lot,

talked to himself. Occasionally he would hum bits of a tune and move his head from side to side with his eyes closed. There were occasional outbursts of joy. Ephraim never looked at the Polish girls who came in for fabrics. His stooped figure, his averted inward gaze, all of him was Jewish. From him, Alex learned how not to feel Jewish, and consequently how not to look Jewish.

Raisel, Ephraim's wife who manned the counter and waited on the customers, was another useful subject for how Jews behave. Her specialty was humor. She had an irreverent way of imitating people and making fun of them. Even her own children were treated to funny, even cutting nicknames. She was irrepressible, one of these people whose lips seem always poised to laugh or sling a comment. From her Alex learned to stay away from humor, especially that cynical type of irony that can be identified as Jewish.

Similarly, he studied Polish men, what they said about their families, what they bragged about, how they held their backs and arms when walking, how they looked at women, sometime even turning around to get another view, all of which helped Alex deduce what their thoughts were, especially their sense of privilege.

You have to wonder, as I did when Alex described all this, why he had felt it necessary to be so careful. After all, at this time in 1943 the Jews did not yet know about Auschwitz and ovens. What he said was that he had read Mein Kampf from beginning to end, and he believed what he read in there.

To me it's ironic that when the fear of death came upon him, the strategy Alex resorted to was study, reading, making observations, and applying logic. In a way, underneath the Polish persona, the studious Jew was still there.

I have to note that just before Alex left, his mother gave him a thousand zloty, money he used to get a hotel room and food for the first few days. But she had done something more significant to aid his escape. Prior to the Holocaust, my grandmother Miriam and my grandfather Elchanan had insisted that their children have secular education in addition to Hebrew school. Without that, none of Alex's cleverness would have gotten him out of the ghetto. This was not universal among Polish Jews of the time. In fact, my grandmother's own brother Jakov refused to speak to his sister for over 15 years because she sent her children to secular school.

Dear reader, let me sadly let you know that Raisel and Ephraim with their four children perished. They spoke only the Polish they needed for their business so there was no option for them to attempt escape. As for my father, his sister Chava, and Grandmother Miriam, six months after Alex escaped, they followed his example. They escaped with false papers and through several instances of sheer luck, ultimately survived.



Top row 2nd from left is Ephraim.

Top row 3rd from left Grandfather Elchanan

Middle row 2nd from left is Raisel.

Middle row last right Grandmother Miriam.

Bottom row 1st from left my father, Paul

Bottom row 2nd from left is Alex

Manchester's TI and TAY Book Clubs come
Together for a Fascinating ZOOM Program by
Author Dr. Doug Zipes

by Sol Rockenmacher



On Wednesday evening June 15 the book clubs of Temple Israel and Temple Adath Yeshurun in Manchester joined together to hear a presentation by author Dr. Doug Zipes about his latest book. "Ari's Spoon."

Dr. Zipes is a nationally and world-renowned cardiologist who is the retired Chief of Cardiology and Professor Emeritus at the University of Indiana Medical Center in Indianapolis. He has published almost 1000 articles and 16 textbooks in the field of cardiology and has held leadership positions in many programs in the medical world. As he headed into retirement he (thankfully for us) managed to find time to write some wonderful novels and an autobiography, all very impressive works. "Ari's Spoon" is his latest work of fiction and another truly wonderful read.

Here is a synopsis of the story: "Young surgeon Gabe Goerner and his wife, Cassie, are thrilled when their daughter, Zoey, is born. She is a seven-pound, six-ounce re-creation of her mother. When she is three months old, her parents schedule her baptism at a Catholic Church in Indianapolis. The attendees include his parents who bring the family's cedar chest, his grandfather's most prized possession from Poland, that houses Gabe's baptismal gown. Although it is a family heirloom, its origins are unknown. As Gabe's family enters the church for his daughter's baptism, her gown triggers the security metal detector. After Gabe discovers the cause is an engraved silver spoon sewn into the double-layered hem of the tiny gown, the mysterious discovery soon transports him through a cascade of unforgettable events that lead him from contemporary Indianapolis to the Warsaw ghetto during World War II, from underground bunkers to operating rooms, and from the safety of home to the Treblinka death camp. What he finds on his mission will transform his life...Ari's Spoon is the historical tale of a young surgeon's journey to the truth..."

The seed for the session with Doug was planted by Stephen Singer. He had read the book and contacted Dr. Sol Rockenmacher, who had introduced Stephen to previous works by Doug. Stephen described "Ari's Spoon" as follows: "Absolutely spellbinding historical novel dealing with both the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and contemporary antisemitism. Radiant, emotional and eye opening. Highly recommended." Stephen, Sol, and TI Book Club representative Ken Cohn all felt that it would be very special to have Doug join us for a discussion of the book with our Manchester Jewish community Book Clubs. Doug was contacted by Sol, who had been a schoolmate of Doug's at Dartmouth College, Dartmouth Medical School, and Harvard Medical School. Doug graciously accepted the invite to join us in a Zoom program from his home in Indianapolis.

The Zoom presentation began with an introduction by Sol and then Ken took over as moderator for the rest of the session. To start, Dr. Zipes gave a wonderful presentation about the process of putting the book together, with a lot of Polish Holocaust history and geography and an impressive description of development of the characters involved, both real and fictional. This was followed by questions from the audience. Overall, it was clearly a very enjoyable and meaningful program that brought our community together to reflect on both our past and present Jewish history.

The bottom line... "Ari's Spoon" is a must read!... Thank you, Doug.

The Temple Israel Jewish book club was born on February 11, 2020, the day of the New Hampshire Presidential primary. Aida, Benay, and I got together at the Airport Diner in Manchester for our first meeting. As we got underway in our comfy booth and ordered a warm beverage, a huge new fancy bus pulled up along the front of the diner. In walked, amongst others, VP Mike Pence, Ivanka Trump & Governor Sununu. (Although our charter was to not discuss politics on the book club, it did create quite a buzz).

So now you know the story of the genesis of the book club. After that first meeting, the proliferation of the pandemic forced us to transition to zoom.

All I can say is thank G-d for zoom.

It's been quite an experience for me, and it has been a good way to keep busy and sane through the long months of the pandemic. I've had fun and read some interesting books and we've had some great interactions and made some new friends along the way. We even got to visit and learn more about the lives & opinions of old friends.

Here are comments about the book club from the two other musketeers who kept things going with me.

From Aida Koocher: "It was very rewarding to be a part of our TI book club. I loved the books we read and the engaging discussions that took place. It was very special, at times, to have some authors join us. I appreciated everyone who took time out of their busy lives to share their reading experience with us."

From Benay Birch: "It is an honor to have been one of the Three Musketeers that organized the TI Book Club. The experience opened my world to new books and new TI friends. It is an activity I greatly enjoyed. What a joy to work with Aida and Kenny."

Finally, a big Todah Rabah to Kenny who originally got the Book Club for TI into motion."

The TI book club will transition to a quarterly book club in September.

~ Article submitted by Ken Cohn



JULY - AV 4 TO ELUL 4



July 3	John Crites-Borak	July 12	Skylar Cohen	July 22	Laurence Eckman
July 3	Faith Guttman	July 14	Lucy Petunia Sommers	July 23	Norri Oberlander
July 4	Miriam Anne Veale	July 15	Robert Singer	July 27	Ilana Jacobs
July 9	Leigh Musicof	July 15	Dustin Sinkow	July 29	Merle Paltrow
July 10	Harry A.B. Shapiro	July 16	Hon. Jenny Coffey	July 29	Jacob Preis



July 1 - Rachel & Tim Russell - 10 years
 July 2 - Lee Sinkow & Linda Kropp Sinkow - 5 years
 July 2 - Liz & Aaron Sommers - 16 years
 July 4 - Norri & Daniel Oberlander - 14 years
 July 4 - Joy & Michael Sydney - 44 years
 July 7 - Debbie & Greg DePasse - 21 years

July 14 - Paul Schill & Christine Gagnon - 26 years
 July 17 - Pat & Henry Biagi - 46 years
 July 21 - Tal Hagbi & Jennifer Aldrich - 5 years
 July 26 - Christy Aberg & Josh Nathan - 13 years
 July 29 - Rachel & Melvin Spierer - 53 years

Religious Services and Events at a Glance

Morning Minyan – every Wednesday at 7:00am
 July 9 - 10:00am - Shabbat Service followed by Kiddush
 July 15 - 6:00pm - Musical Family Shabbat with BBQ rsvp by July 8
 July 23 - 10:00am - Shabbat service



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