



Temple Israel of Great Neck (TIGN) Shoah Remembrance Committee

Kristallnacht Commemoration

Remembering: Finding New Ways to Reconnect to Our Past

Sunday, November 13th at 12 Noon - Lunch and Conversation

Location: Temple Israel in the Blue Room and via TIGN Zoom

Panel: Helen Albert and Hilda Chazanovitz

Conversation Leader: Rabbi Daniel Schweber

TIGN 2022 Commemoration

The goal for the TIGN Kristallnacht program this year is to remember the Shoah with new ways of learning while commemorating the past. Non-jews are seeking innovative ways of remembering the rich lives and culture that is now devoid in their communities in Europe. We seek to discuss new ways of remembering the past with Hilda Chazanovitz and Helen Albert who are children of survivors. They have travelled back to Poland to explore their family histories. Exploring the past has been challenging but has enabled new initiatives and collaborations.

Join us for a lunch, conversation, and exploration of our collective history as we find new ways to reconnect to our past.

Registration for the lunch and meeting would be appreciated but is not required. To register for the event please visit:

<https://tign.shulcloud.com/form/kristallnacht5783.html>

80 Years After Kristallnacht – Radom + Rzeszow, Poland – New Perspectives

Over eight decades, we have lost most of our survivors. Children and grandchildren of survivors have become the vessels for remembering the lives lost. Recent initiatives in the Polish towns of Radom and Rzeszow are bringing attention to Jewish history and restoring the vibrant Jewish culture that is no longer present. In these towns and hundreds of others throughout Poland, remembering the past has taken different and surprising paths.

In Rzeszow, Poland to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liquidation of the ghetto this summer several hundred residents of the city walked from the old Jewish cemetery (now a plaza) to the railway station where a new plaque was unveiled. Rzeszow is the town of Helen and David Albert's father Oscar. Oscar was one of about 100 survivors of the Jewish population of 14,000. One third of the inhabitants were Jews. The loss of

Jewish life and culture in Rzeszow was not only the result of the German Holocaust, but also by unrelenting Polish antisemitism after the war. Recently, Helen Albert was invited to work with Rzeszow high school students to remember the lives of those that were lost. Students were assigned to research participating survivor families' histories and to link with families who now reside in Israel, Belgium, Australia, France, and the United States. The project bridged years of ignorance and offered a new way of remembering and recalling our collective pasts. This initiative by Poles enabled a new generation to learn about Jewish life and for children of survivors to learn about their parents and their families and the lives that they lived.

Since first visiting Poland in 2014 and especially her ancestral city of Radom, Hilda Chazanovitz has been committed to restoring the lost history of Jewish life in Radom. The city was once home to 30,000 Jews. The absence of Jewish life on that first visit was the beginning of a different journey. It would be inspired by work several local organizations and the Forum for Dialogue in Warsaw had already begun. The students in a local high school, their teachers and parents, as well as local officials would make an enduring contribution for the future work to come. Collaborating with many partners: fellow descendants of Radom, the local government, educational and civic leaders and community organizations, a bridge from the past to contemporary Radom was established. Over the years, a Memorial Walk and guided tours of former Jewish sites, an interfaith Seder for over 70, Shabbat dinners, commemorations at the restored cemetery, and a Jewish cultural festival with films, panel discussions, author talks, concerts and art exhibitions created a new narrative about Jewish life in Radom.

Short Bios - Hilda Chazanovitz and Helen Albert

Hilda Chazanovitz is the daughter of Pola (Perla) Grynblat and David Lerman. The Grynblats lived in Radom and the Lerman family in Skarzysko Kamienna, near Radom. Hilda is the founder of Hilda Chazanovitz and Company, consulting with media and technology companies here and abroad. Hilda and TIGN member Marty Werber and his family have participated in the Radomer Mutual Culture Center, the organization that their parents were active in. Hilda has also worked to strengthen nonprofit organizations in the arts, the emerging food movement and to support Jewish communal organizations. She has been a senior executive at the National Geographic Channel.

Helen Albert is the daughter of Oscar and Diana Albert and the brother of David Albert the Co-Chair of the Shoah Remembrance Committee. Oscar's family lived in Rzeszow and Diana's in Serock. Helen is a long-time senior executive in the federal government holding several positions including Acting Inspector General and Principal Deputy Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Deputy Inspector General of the Security and Exchange Commission. In all these capacities she has supervised investigations and financial audits of various government programs. As the child of two Holocaust survivors, she has become involved in efforts in many locations in the U.S. and abroad in trying to research and commemorate her family's history.