Barbara Sachs D’Asaro
(school years)
By: Gabe Regelbrugge

Who am I
Between the pony tail braids
on either side of my pale blue eyes
   I want to belong
Wear the sweater
Red, green and black
Of the Hitler Youth
Like all my friends
Like everyone else
   I want to belong
Salute the marchers
Goose-stepping down the streets of Berlin
   Or the whole-wide world

“Aren't they wonderful, Papa?”

(No, they are horrible!)
“Yes, of course they are wonderful,
   But now pack your things
   We must go”

Why must we go
Across the ocean
See Lady Liberty
Where I am ignorant
The strange language and food
The wild, staring eyes
Neither Nazi nor a Jew
And yet that’s what they call me
Bullied
Outside looking in
“You’ll get used to it,
Toughen up”
But I just want to belong
Fit in
Laugh with--
Not be laughed at!

I want to belong
Like every other child,
Between the pony tail braids
On either side of my pale blue eyes.

I saw a Yellow bench well walking, which said “for Jews only”. I wondered why. I want to wear the sweaters my peers are wearing, but my parents will not let me. They got me a different sweater that was close to the same my peers were wearing. I was sent away to a children’s home in the winter. I learned to speak English there. Skiing the morning and ice-skating in the afternoons when lucky.

“Jewish culture is learning”
Was what she learned as a child
So “Tell people what’s what”
Is Barbara’s lesson for us today.
Everyone must be educated
But no one can have too much power
Accomplish the above
And avoid your darkest hour.