



**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.

