



A
Memorial
in
Glass



Arthur Szyk

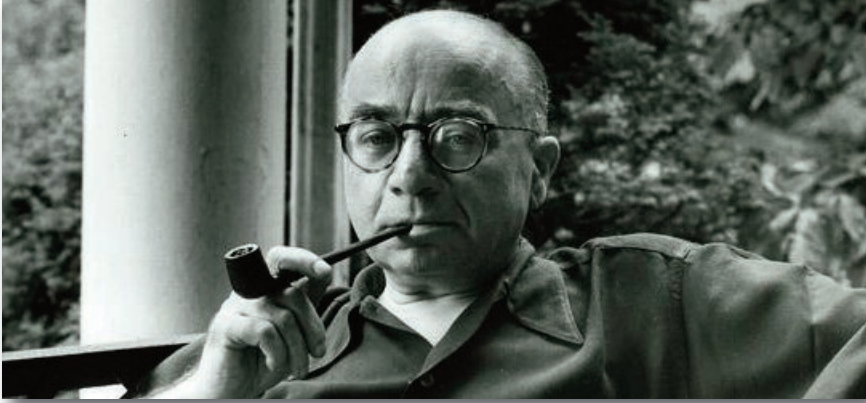
*"Art is not my aim,
it is my means."*

*"I am but a Jew
praying in art."*

- Arthur Szyk

Arthur Szyk

1894-1951



Arthur Szyk was a Polish-Jewish artist who worked primarily as a book illustrator and political artist throughout his decades-long career. He was born into a prosperous middle-class Jewish family in Łódź, Poland which was then under Russian rule. Beginning in 1921, Szyk lived and created his works mainly in France and Poland, and in 1937 he moved to the United Kingdom. In 1940 he moved to the United States and eventually settled here permanently.

Arthur Szyk became a renowned artist and book illustrator in the early interwar period. His works were exhibited and published in Poland, France, the United Kingdom, Israel and the United States. However, he gained broad popularity in the United States primarily through his political caricatures, in which, after the outbreak of World War II, he ridiculed the policies and personalities of the leaders of the Axis powers. After the war, he also devoted himself to political issues, especially the support of the creation of the state of Israel.

In 1947, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver commissioned Szyk to design the memorial windows. It is the only example of his work in this medium. D'Ascenzo Studios of Philadelphia collaborated with the artist to create the stained glass windows.

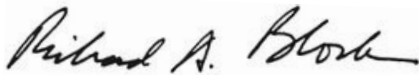
A Memorial in Glass

In 1947, Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver deemed it fitting to recognize and honor the 776 men and women of the congregation who had served in the United States Armed Forces in World War II, and to memorialize the 22 congregants who gave their lives in defense of our nation.

To do so, a War Service Alcove, designed by Rorimer-Brooks, Inc., was created in The Temple at University Circle, adjacent to the Rabbi Moses Gries Memorial Chapel. It featured stained glass windows designed by the eminent artist and Zionist, Arthur Szyk, depicting three famous Jewish warriors: Gideon, Samson, and Judah Maccabee. Beneath them, in a handsome case, sat a Book of Remembrance designed by Potter and Mellon, Inc. and illuminated by Sol and Norman Nodel, containing the names of all who served.

Arthur Szyk also oversaw the design of twelve Memorial Windows representing the Twelve Tribes of Israel and bearing the names of those who died in service. These were installed in the Gries Chapel. The D'Ascenzo Studios of Philadelphia created all these exquisite windows which were dedicated on Sunday, December 14, 1947.

The Szyk windows, restored and illuminated, were relocated to The Temple, Beachwood in 2016 during the TempleTomorrow expansion and renovation project, thanks to the generosity of the Meisel and Pesses families. Featured in our majestic new chapel and the adjoining lobby, they embody a central tenet of our Temple's vision statement, "We cherish our rich history and traditions and foster a dynamic culture of imagination and innovation." Their beauty and symbolism, and the memories with which they resonate, will inspire worshippers for generations to come.



Richard A. Block
Rabbi Emeritus

The original ink and gouache illustration of Gideon, Sampson, and Judah Maccabee was drawn by Arthur Szyk in New Canaan, Connecticut, in 1946. It was acquired for the congregational museum collection in 1998.

Gift of the Meisel Family Artistic Fund



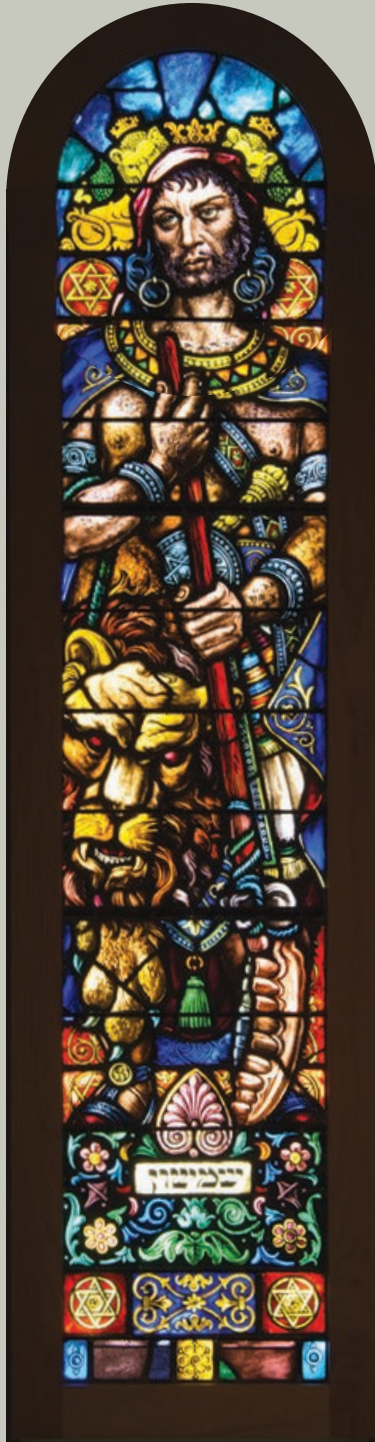


Gideon

One of the heroes of the Book of Judges which spans the period of 1350-1004 B.C.E., from the death of Joshua until the ascendancy of King David, Gideon led his people against the Midianites who invaded Canaan from the Arabian desert on camels. He carefully selected a fighting force of Israelites, who had taken to caves on the mountain tops, attacked the Midianite camp by night, and drove them from the land, pursuing them beyond the Jordan River. He also took a stand against the worship of the Canaanite deity, Baal, which was practiced in his town and even in his own family. The Israelites begged Gideon to be their king, but Gideon refused, saying, "I shall not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Eternal alone shall rule over you." During the time of Gideon, there was peace in Israel for 40 years.

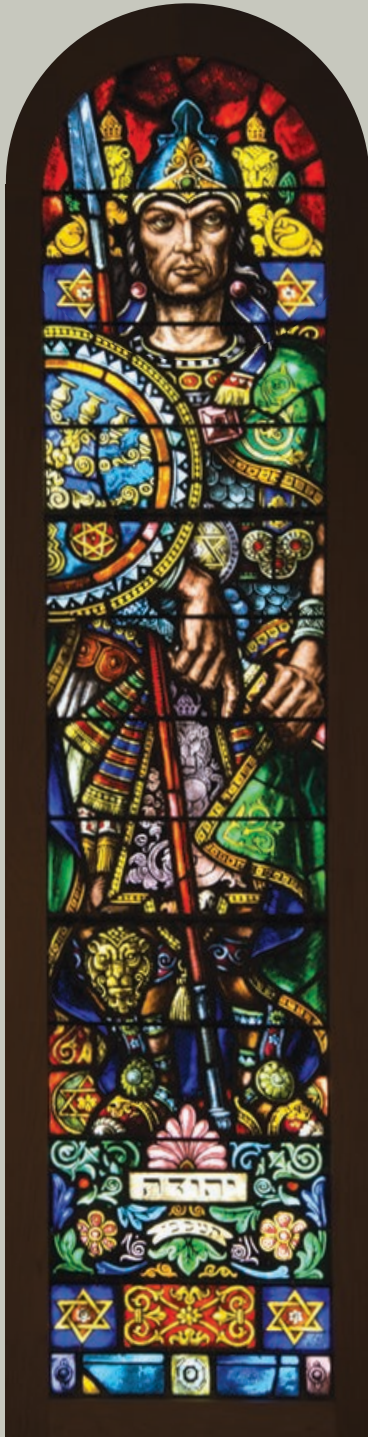
A Book of Remembrance featuring the 776 names of the men and women of the congregation who loyally served our country in World War II is located outside the chapel.





Samson

The last of the Israelite leaders mentioned in the Book of Judges, and the first to do battle against the invading Philistines, Samson was a hero of legendary strength. An angel of the Eternal had appeared to Manoah and his wife, saying they would have a son who was to be raised as a Nazirite. Nazirites were Israelites who were dedicated to God, refrained from drinking intoxicants, cut their hair short, and avoided defilement by contact with a corpse. According to the Book of Judges, Samson's hair was the source of his strength. His wife, Delilah, revealed this secret to the Philistines, who cut off his hair while he was asleep, gouged out his eyes, and enslaved him. They brought Samson out for mockery during their religious ceremony. Placed between the two central pillars on which the temple's roof rested, Samson prayed, "O, Eternal God! Please remember me, and give me strength just this once, O God, to take revenge." Leaning against the pillars, Samson cried, "Let me die with the Philistines!" and pulled with all his might, bringing the building down upon him and all those present.



Judah Maccabee

In 167 B.C.E., Mattathias the Hasmonean, a Jewish priest from Modi'in, and his five sons started a revolt against Antiochus IV Epiphanes, ruler of the Syrian Greeks, who had defiled the holy Temple in Jerusalem, issued decrees forbidding Jewish religious practices, and imposed forced Hellenization. When Mattathias died, his son Judah Maccabee succeeded him as leader. Far outnumbered by the opposing forces, Judah's initial strategy was to employ guerrilla warfare; he then organized a real army on the Greek model. After several years, Judah drove the Seleucid Greeks out of Jerusalem. He re-consecrated the Temple and restored Jewish religious service there on the 25th of Kislev, the origin of Hanukkah, which begins on that date each year and celebrates that re-consecration. Less than five years later, the Greeks marshalled a large army against the Jews and besieged the city, which Judah died defending. Upon his death, his brothers, Jonathan and Simon, led the Jewish forces and, after several years, the Jews finally achieved independence and the right to worship freely.



The Tribe of Reuben

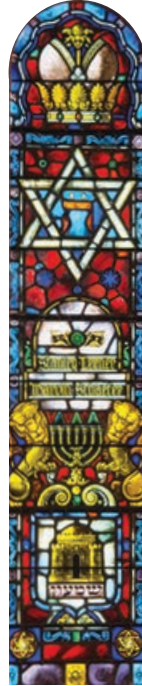
Eldest son of Jacob and Leah

Symbol of the Tribe: Mandrake plant with its fruit, called "love apples."

Jewish symbols: Crown, King David's Harp, Temple Emblem (Menorah/Star of David) and Shofar.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Sardius

In Memoriam: Earle M. Lieberman



The Tribe of Simeon

Second son of Jacob and Leah

Symbol of the Tribe: Gate (City of Shechem, Sword). The Simeon tribe eventually was absorbed into the tribe of Judah.

Jewish symbols: Crown, Star of David containing a *heh*, referring to God and Menorah with Rampant Lions.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Topaz

In Memoriam: Stanley Lerner
Marvin Schaefer



The Tribe of Issachar

Fifth son of Jacob and Leah

Symbol of the Tribe: Camel. Issachar became a laborer.

Jewish symbols: Crown, Star of David containing a *heh*, referring to God and Menorah with Rampant Lions.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Sapphire

In Memoriam: Phil Leeds
Bernard Fields
Charles Roodman



The Tribe of Zebulun

Youngest son of Jacob and Leah

Symbol of the Tribe: Ship. Jacob predicted for him a maritime vocation and designated him as a "haven of ships."

Jewish symbols: Crown, Tablets of the Ten Commandments, Menorah and Shofar.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Diamond

In Memoriam: Walter P. Deutsch
Gordon A. Herstam



The Tribe of Levi

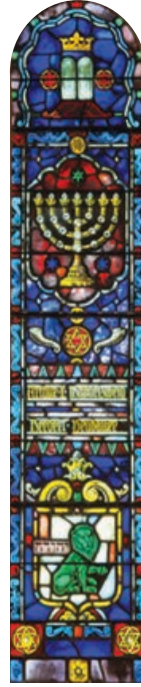
Third son of Jacob and Leah

Symbol of the Tribe: Breastplate. The Tribe of Levi was appointed to serve the Temple sanctuary as priests (Kohanim).

Jewish symbols: Crown, King David's Harp, Temple Emblem (Menorah/Star of David) and Shofar.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Carbuncle

In Memoriam: Richard A. Fishel



The Tribe of Judah

Fourth son of Jacob and Leah

Symbol of the Tribe: Lion. The Tribe produced many leaders, kings and prophets.

Jewish symbols: Crown, Tablets of the Ten Commandments, Menorah and Shofar.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Emerald

In Memoriam: Arthur L. Mandelzweig
Herbert Neubauer



The Tribe of Joseph

**Ephraim & Manasseh
Eldest son of Jacob and Rachel**

Symbol of the Tribe which is divided between his two sons, Ephraim & Manasseh: Joseph (Bull), Ephraim (Ox, Unicorn), Manasseh (Olive Branch and Arrows).

Jewish symbols: Crown, Tablets of the Ten Commandments, Menorah and Shofar.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Jacinth

In Memoriam: John Friedman Cleveland
Alvin Louis Koblitz



The Tribe of Benjamin

Youngest son of Jacob and Rachel

Symbol of the Tribe: Jackal (wolf). The tribe produced many warriors, including Ehud, a liberator, and Saul, first King of Israel.

Jewish symbols: Crown, Star of David containing a *heh*, referring to God and Menorah with Rampant Lions.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Agate

In Memoriam: Elmer White
Jerome S. Rose
Arthur Einstein



The Tribe of Dan

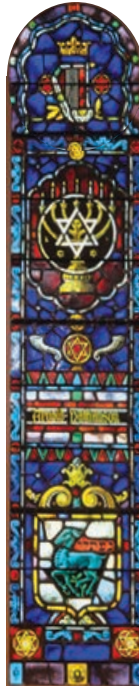
Eldest son of Jacob and Bilhah (Rachel's servant)

Symbol of the Tribe: Serpent. The name Dan signifies judgment and justice served.

Jewish symbols: Crown, Tablets of the Ten Commandments, Menorah and Shofar.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Amethyst

In Memoriam: Mort S. Silberger
Bernard H. Spiegle



The Tribe of Naphtali

Second son of Jacob and Bilhah (Rachel's servant)

Symbol of the Tribe: Deer, a symbol of agility, grace, and tenderness.

Jewish symbols: Crown, King David's Harp, Temple Emblem (Menorah/Star of David) and Shofar.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Beryl

In Memoriam: Arnold Nathanson



The Tribe of Gad

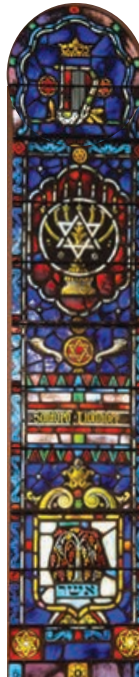
Eldest son of Jacob and Zilpah (Leah's servant)

Symbol of the Tribe: Mobile Army Tents. Gadites were famous warriors.

Jewish symbols: Crown, Star of David containing a *heh*, referring to God and Menorah with Rampant Lions.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Onyx

In Memoriam: Norman Roman
Robert L. Meisel



The Tribe of Asher

Second son of Jacob and Zilpah (Leah's servant)

Symbol of the Tribe: Olive tree. Asher's name signifies happiness, prosperity.

Jewish symbols: Crown, King David's Harp, Temple Emblem (Menorah/Star of David) and Shofar.

Gemstone of the Tribe: Jasper

In Memoriam: Sanford Libhaber

As a soldier, I share your deep pride in the contribution of our victory made by members of your congregation. It is fitting indeed that the Memorial Windows and Alcove in The Temple be dedicated to their gallant service and to their comrades who gave their lives in freedom's name. These memorials will renew in all who visit The Temple an appreciation of the ideals for which your sons and brothers fought and died.

*A letter from General Dwight D. Eisenhower,
Chief of Staff, United States Army
to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, November 19, 1947*

**Windows photography by
SGMP - Scott Gloger**



Mishkan Or Museum of Jewish Cultures

**Congregation Mishkan Or
Jack and Lilyan Mandel Building
26000 Shaker Boulevard
Beachwood, Ohio 44122
216.831.3233**

WWW.MISHKANOR.ORG