

Thoughtful Thursdays: Exploring the Jewish Landscape of Learning presents....

The Search for the White Stork: Anti-Semitism, WWII, and the Story of Eric Bowes, presented by Paul Mogolesko

Thursday, April 15
7:00-8:00pm

Paul Mogolesko has had a long friendship with Wendy Bowes and her late husband, David. Several times, David told Paul about his father, Eric Bowes. Like many people who survived the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust, Eric did not share many of his experiences with his family. But, in Eric's case, he couldn't because his service during the war was covered by a 50 year secrecy agreement.

At the end of 2016 Paul and his wife were living in Florida. Back in Wayne, NJ, David's wife Wendy asked Paul to get some documents that were in their condominium in Boynton. In the process of searching for what Wendy needed, Paul came upon Eric's files, some from the 1930s. Those files became the basis for Paul's historical fiction, *The Search for the White Stork*. The book integrates the history of anti-Semitism and the lead up to World War II with the story of Eric Bowes and his family.

About *The Search for the White Stork*:

Eric was the child of a successful German Jewish family. Once Hitler came to power he was fortunate to be chosen for the Kinder Transport. In England, he joined the British army becoming a saboteur, spending over 200 days behind German lines blowing up electrical transformers, slowing the construction of German machines of war. Many years later, Eric made a promise to his father to go back to work with the local Jewish community to resurrect the White Stork Synagogue. Eric's efforts along with many others over more than ten years brought the synagogue back to its former glory.

About Paul Mogolesko:

Paul Mogolesko grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He knew of his interest in science from his second year while studying at Brooklyn Technical High School. He continued those studies as an undergraduate at Brooklyn College and then at MIT where he received his PhD in Chemistry. He spent his entire career in the pharmaceuticals, chemicals and plastics industries. Paul has been married to his sweetheart Suzanne for over 52 years. He is the proud father of two children and four wonderful grandchildren. Paul is retired and is living in Boynton Beach, Florida.