

**Holocaust Memorial Center
Zekelman Family Campus**

Teacher's Packet





Holocaust Memorial Center

28123 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Phone: (248) 553-2400 • Fax: (248) 553-2433

info@holocaustcenter.org • www.holocaustcenter.org

WHY TEACH THE HOLOCAUST?

Since the subject of the Holocaust is vast, complex, and profoundly disturbing, considerable deliberation must be given to its teaching, especially because of the emotional sensitivities that may be evoked.

However, information about the Holocaust must be transmitted and understood by every generation, by all faiths, all ethnic groups, and all nationalities. The lessons must be shared because:

The Holocaust is an undeniable, unprecedented event in history. If we do not learn from past tragedies, we are in danger of repeating them.

Moral and political choices that our children may some day have to make for themselves are presented through study of the Holocaust.

By examining the Holocaust, it becomes evident that the systematic destruction of a people can and did occur, even at the height of so-called “civilization.” We are forced to realize that people are capable not only of great achievements, but also of unspeakable cruelty.

Millions of citizens of several nations were involved in the systematic slaughter of the Jewish people in Europe directly or indirectly. Most of them were “ordinary human beings” —“next door neighbors.” What does it take for a society to overlook or accept genocide?

Through psychological and sociological study of this tragic, event, we can make the dangers of prejudice clear to all mankind.

Ethics and morality urge us to face the truth of our past. To turn away from the Holocaust, or to ignore it, is to be justifiably accused of not facing reality. In the context of the Holocaust, we can study the consequence of bigotry in its most extreme and destructive form.

The consequence of indifference toward persecution of others is always some measure of suffering which should make us realize all the more keenly that we are responsible for one another. Silence and neutrality breed destruction and suffering.

By examining the historical, sociological, and ethical factors involved in the Holocaust, perhaps we can muster the strength to take political and social action in order to avert discrimination and prejudice.



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Email:
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Website:
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Year Established: 1984

Principal Staff Members:
Gail Cohen – Tour Coordinator
Josh Nowicki – IT Systems Administrator
Helen Rosenzweig – Membership & Finances
Judy Rosenzweig – Librarian
Selma Silverman – Administrator
Guy Stern – Director of HWZIIR
Feiga Weiss – Head Librarian
Tim Zimmerman – Building Manager

Staff: Salaried: 9
Volunteer: 150

Days and Hours Open to the Public:

Sunday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Closed on Saturday

Closed on Jewish holidays and most legal holidays

Free admission during regular hours
Donations box in main lobby

Self guided tours permissible during regular hours

Guided Public Tours:

Sunday – Thursday 1 p.m.

Docent guided tours last approximately two hours.
No public guided tours on Friday.

Evening tours available by special arrangement

Highlights:

- Time Line: 4,000 year Jewish history chronology juxtaposed to world history events
- Museum of European Jewish Heritage
- Museum of the Holocaust and the Post-Holocaust era
- Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous (HWZIIR)
- Library Archive: Multilingual reference collection specializing in the Holocaust, European Jewish history, Judeo-Christian relations and General Judaica: 50,000 volumes, 629 documentary video tapes, 1100 memorial books, archive, photographs, maps, artifacts, art collection, vertical file, newspapers and periodicals; access by automated catalog
- John J. Mames Oral History Collection: 410 video oral histories, 139 audio oral

- histories, 55 videotaped group sessions with Holocaust survivors
- Research Institute, Academic Advisory Committee

Publications:

- HMCZFC Brochure
- Newsletter
- *The World Reacts to the Holocaust* (1996), country by country treatment of the Holocaust, edited by David S. Wyman, and published by Johns Hopkins University Press
- *Chronology of Jewish Persecution*
- *Chronology of the Nazi Camp System*
- *Survey of U.S. Federal, U.S. State, and Canadian Provincial Support for Holocaust Education* (2000)

Videos:

- *Remembering the Holocaust*
- Witness to the Past, Beacon for the Future
- For Those We Remember
- *Illuminating the Past, Enlightening Our Future*

Services:

- Group tours conducted by docents and concluded with a Holocaust survivor talk
- Lecture series
- Teacher training and seminars
- Educators' guide
- Yom Hashoah commemorations
- Exhibitions
- Educational outreach programs in conjunction with local schools
- John J. Mames Oral History Program
- Heritage Connection, a computer database supplying information on more than 1,200 destroyed Jewish communities in Europe
- Speaker's bureau
- Docent training program
- Guided travel tours to the concentration camps and Israel
- Holocaust research
- Annual Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous Conference
- Eric Billes Museum Shop: books, videos, art prints, posters, lithographs, and other gift items
- Library catalog available online
- Genealogy research
- Tracing Holocaust survivors



Visitor Information

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Closed on Jewish holidays
and most legal holidays

Free admission during regular hours

Donation box in lobby

The HMCZFC relies almost
entirely on membership pledges,
gifts, and contributions to
finance its educational mission.

Guided Public Tours

Sunday – Thursday 1 p.m.

Docent guided tours last
approximately two hours.
No public guided tours on
Friday. Evening tours by
special arrangement.

In a world increasingly
faced with sectarian strife
and intolerance, it is supremely
important that we learn the
lessons the Holocaust has to
teach, as we strive to maintain an
open, free and ethical society.



Welcome to the nation's first freestanding **Holocaust Memorial Center** in its new, expanded home. Originally located in West Bloomfield, this new facility uses extensive new material and state-of-the-art display techniques to enhance and extend the scope of our message.

Just off the lobby, an illustrated **Time Line** highlights the 4,000-year-long history of the Jewish people. The time line places the story of the Jewish people in context by juxtaposing it with a parallel display of major events in world history.

The **Museum of European Jewish Heritage** is a memorial to the Jews and Jewish life which once thrived in the more than 23,000 communities across the European continent. The museum begins with a brief introduction to Judaism, its beliefs, sacred literature, laws and customs. Life cycle events, holidays, synagogues and historical movements are documented with artifacts, photographs and flip books. A **Bimah** and **Rema Synagogue model**, where Rabbi Moses Isserles, the father of Ashkenazic Jewish law once served, is surrounded by pillars of a bimah, a platform used to read the Torah Bible.



Three imposing floor-to-ceiling **murals**, painted by Anatoly Shapiro, depict a market place, a wedding and a reproduction from a medieval manuscript Haggadah, the liturgical guide used at the Passover seder service. Two pictorial programs entitled '**Shtetl Life**,' show how Jews worked, lived, studied and



celebrated in the thousand years Jews lived in Europe before 1939. A three-dimensional floor model of a typical shtetl and an in-depth study of **David-Horodok**, Belarus, complete with history, photos and archival documentation, allow the visitor to understand the distinct flavor of Jewish life in Europe.

Behind the **Haggadah mural** is a **Yiddish Theater**, where one is treated to a delightful audiovisual program on Jewish culture culled from archival footage of the times. Contributions Jews made to world civilization are referenced throughout, with a special exhibit on Jewish Nobel Prize winners.

In contrast, an entire wall is devoted to tracing the history of anti-Semitism which culminated in the destruction of 6,000,000 innocent lives.

Around the corner is a ramp leading the visitor down into the **Holocaust Museum**. The political and legal climate in which Hitler and the Nazi Party operated is portrayed. A large photo of Hitler looms as the visitor begins to sense that change is in the air. One can actually hear Hitler addressing a huge audience and the deafening response of his multitude of admirers. The atmosphere of racial superiority can be understood with a 22 foot window display of artifacts, documents and artwork revealing how the Hitler charisma and culture established an environment where the impossible began to happen.



The major events chronicling the step-by-step implementation of the 'Final Solution' are explained with state-of-the-art exhibits. **Concentration camps, ghetto life** and **Wannsee Conference** exhibits prepare the visitor for the extermination process put into action by the Nazi bureaucracy. Disturbing images are enclosed in pull-out drawers. The visitor gets to feel the confinement of a crowded cattle car and listens to a survivor describe Auschwitz as he revisits the arrival ramp 60 years later.

Turning the corner, one enters **The Abyss**, where a series of seven audiovisual screens show the scenes which the liberators encountered as they entered the camps.

The silence of The Abyss is broken in the **Survivors' Theater** as Detroit area survivors tell about their individual experiences.





One now enters a more brightly-lit area where the aftermath of the atrocities are dealt with. **Nuremberg Trials**, the frantic search for family, survivor rehabilitation and emigration panels explain the never-before-encountered issues which had to be resolved. Included here are the heart-wrenching personal narratives of child survivors who, now as adults, look back and describe their experience. After dealing with the unimaginable, reflections on responsibility and guilt are brought to the forefront.

Lastly, visitors watch **'Responsibility,'** an audiovisual presentation focusing on the challenges and opportunities we face today, in light of the lessons learned from the Holocaust. The program highlights how each and every individual has the power to effect change, one deed at a time.



As one exits the museum, profiles of those who acted righteously during the Holocaust line the wall of the uphill ramp. The final message is one of righteousness against all odds.

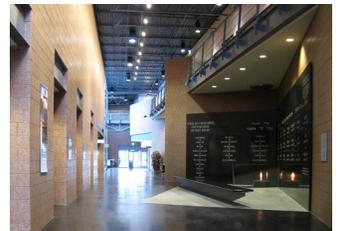
The **Harry and Wanda Zekelman International Institute of the Righteous** honors the thousands of righteous individuals who saved, or tried to save, at least one Jew, and who knowingly placed themselves in mortal danger. The stories of these individual acts of bravery are as inspiring and uplifting as the stories of the Nazi-led murders and atrocities are horrifying and depressing. Such heroes and heroines and their families are, and always will be, honored for all time. As the Jerusalem Talmud says: "When someone saves one life, it is as if that person had saved the whole world."



Timeless ethical themes are arranged throughout the circular room with examples from history and classic literature. Within this area are eight interactive stations, **"What Would You Do?"** programs that allow visitors to make decisions which have far-reaching consequences. On the side of each of these are **"Walls of Thought"** where visitors are encouraged to leave messages telling how their visit to the Holocaust Memorial Center changed or will change their thought and behavior patterns.

In an adjoining surround theater, the visitor may listen to a group of young people discussing interdependence. The formula 'Matter Plus Association Equals Life' cleverly postulates to people of all ages, the importance of respecting every human being's contribution to society. It is the ongoing mission of the Institute to discover what motivates altruistic behavior and to disseminate those findings as widely as possible. It is our hope that these findings will be used to foster a more compassionate and tolerant society.

The Holocaust Memorial Center is a place of solemn remembrance, where an **eternal flame** burns in honor of those who perished. This always-lit flame burns beside two walls, one detailing the numbers of Jews murdered by country during the Holocaust and another listing the names of the concentration camps and massacre sites where so many of those murders took place.



The monumental painting **"The Mission"** by Israeli artist Dubi Arie, is on exhibit in the auditorium. Artist Selma Tenenbaum's work is exhibited in the Art Gallery Corridor on the second floor. Numerous other paintings, sculptures and artwork line the halls and walls of the HMCZFC.

The **Library Archive**, located on the second floor, houses a world class Holocaust reference library specializing in the Holocaust, European Jewish history and Jewish Christian relations. Books, oral histories, audiovisuals, archives, photographs, maps, etc. are available for research and browsing. The Library Archive is open during museum hours.

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Plans are underway to expand the HMCZFC to include an exhibit gallery, dedicated to the message of tolerance and altruism, for children under the age of 12. Contact the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus to learn more about how you can contribute.

"It is critical that our children learn lessons of tolerance in their formative years, so it will stay with them throughout their lifetime."
- Rabbi Charles Rosenzweig



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My annual contribution will be:

\$100 General \$180 Legion of the Righteous \$250 Patron \$500 Guardian
 \$2,000 for five years or \$10,000 in full Legacy Charter * \$50,000 and above Benefactor*

I wish to make a donation in the amount of \$_____. You may also donate online at www.holocaustcenter.org

Name _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Eve.) _____

VISA or MasterCard no. _____ exp. date _____ Make all checks payable to Holocaust Memorial Center

All contributions are tax deductible

* Includes a plaque within the Holocaust Memorial Center



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History of the Holocaust

The Holocaust (also called *Shoah* in Hebrew) refers to the period from January 30, 1933, when Hitler became chancellor of Germany, to May 8, 1945 (V-E Day), when the war in Europe ended. During this time, Jews in Europe were subjected to progressively harsh persecution that ultimately led to the murder of 6,000,000 Jews (1.5 million of these being children) and the destruction of 5,000 Jewish communities. These deaths represented 2/3rds of European Jewry and 1/3 of world Jewry. The Jews who died were not casualties of the fighting that ravaged Europe during World War II. Rather, they were the victims of Germany's deliberate and systematic attempt to annihilate the entire Jewish population of Europe, a plan Hitler called "the Final Solution" (*Endlösung*).

After its defeat in World War I, Germany was humiliated by the Versailles Treaty, which reduced its prewar territory, drastically reduced its armed forces, demanded the recognition of its guilt for the war, and stipulated it pay reparations to the allied powers. The German Empire destroyed, a new parliamentary government called the Weimar Republic was formed. The republic suffered from economic instability, which grew worse during the worldwide depression after the New York stock market crash in 1929. Massive inflation followed by very high unemployment heightened existing class and political differences and began to undermine the government.

On January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers (Nazi) Party, was named chancellor by president Paul von Hindenburg after the Nazi party won a significant percentage of the vote in the elections of 1932. The Nazi Party had taken advantage of the political unrest in Germany to gain an electoral foothold and by the end of 1932 was the strongest party in Germany. The Nazis incited clashes with the communists, who many feared, disrupted the government with demonstrations, and conducted a vicious propaganda campaign against its political opponents, the weak Weimar government, and the Jews, whom the Nazis blamed for Germany's ills.

Propaganda: "The Jews Are Our Misfortune"

A major tool of the Nazis' propaganda assault was the weekly Nazi newspaper *Der Stürmer* (The Attacker). At the bottom of the front page of each issue, in bold letters, the paper proclaimed, "The Jews are our misfortune!" *Der Stürmer* also regularly featured cartoons of Jews in which they were caricatured as hooked-nosed and ape-like. The influence of the newspaper was far reaching: by 1938 about a half million copies were distributed weekly.

Soon after he became chancellor, Hitler called for new elections in an effort to get full control of the Reichstag, the German parliament, for the Nazis. The Nazis used the

government apparatus to terrorize the other parties. They arrested their leaders and banned their political meetings. Then, in the midst of the election campaign, on February 27, 1933, the Reichstag building burned. A Dutchman named Marinus van der Lubbe was arrested for the crime, and he swore he had acted alone. Although many suspected the Nazis were ultimately responsible for the act, the Nazis managed to blame the Communists, thus turning more votes their way.

The fire signaled the demise of the German democracy. On the next day, the government, under the pretense of controlling the Communists, abolished individual rights and protections: freedom of the press, assembly, and expression were nullified, as well as the right to privacy. When the elections were held on March 5, the Nazis received nearly 44 percent of the vote, and with 8 percent offered by the Conservatives, won a majority in the government.

The Nazis moved swiftly to consolidate their power into a dictatorship. On March 23, the Enabling Act was passed. It sanctioned Hitler's dictatorial efforts and legally enabled him to pursue them further. The Nazis marshalled their formidable propaganda machine to silence their critics. They also developed a sophisticated police and military force.

The *Sturmabteilung* (SA, Storm Troopers), a grassroots organization, helped Hitler undermine the German democracy, by aggressively agitating for change and terrorizing political opponents. The Gestapo (*Geheime Staatspolizei*, Secret State Police), a force recruited from professional police officers, was given complete freedom to arrest anyone after February 28. The *Schutzstaffel* (SS, Protection Squad) served as Hitler's personal bodyguard and eventually controlled the concentration camps and the Gestapo. The *Sicherheitsdienst des Reichsführers-SS* (SD, Security Service of the SS) functioned as the Nazis' intelligence service, uncovering enemies and keeping them under surveillance.

With this police infrastructure in place, opponents of the Nazis were terrorized, beaten, or sent to one of the concentration camps the Germans built to incarcerate them. Dachau, just outside of Munich, was the first such camp built for political prisoners. Dachau's purpose changed over time and eventually became another brutal concentration camp for Jews.

By the end of 1934 Hitler was in absolute control of Germany and his campaign against the Jews in full swing. The Nazis claimed the Jews corrupted pure German culture with their "foreign" and "mongrel" influence. They portrayed the Jews as evil and cowardly, and Germans as hardworking, courageous, and honest. The Jews, the Nazis claimed, who were heavily represented in finance, commerce, the press, literature, theater, and the arts, had weakened Germany's economy and culture. The massive government-supported propaganda machine created a racial anti-Semitism, which was different from the long-standing anti-Semitic tradition of the Christian churches.

The superior race was the "Aryans," the Germans. The word Aryan "derived from the study of linguistics, which started in the eighteenth century and at some point determined that the Indo-Germanic (also known as Aryan) languages were superior in their structures, variety, and vocabulary to the Semitic languages that had evolved in the Near East. This judgment led to a certain conjecture about the character of the peoples who spoke these languages; the conclusion was that the 'Aryan' peoples were likewise superior to the 'Semitic' ones." (Leni Yahil, *The Holocaust: The Fate of European Jewry*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1990, 36).

The Jews Are Isolated from Society

The Nazis then combined their racial theories with the evolutionary theories of Charles Darwin to justify their treatment of the Jews. The Germans, as the strongest and fittest, were destined to rule, while the weak and racially adulterated Jews were doomed to extinction. Hitler began to restrict the Jews with legislation and terror, which entailed burning books written by Jews, removing Jews from their professions and public schools, confiscating their businesses and property, and excluding them from public events. The most infamous of the anti-Jewish legislation was the Nuremberg Laws, enacted on September 15, 1935. They formed the legal basis for the Jews' exclusion from German society and the progressively restrictive Jewish policies of the Germans.

Many Jews attempted to flee Germany and thousands succeeded by immigrating to such countries as Belgium, Czechoslovakia, England, France, and Holland. It was much more difficult to get out of Europe. Jews encountered stiff immigration quotas in most of the world's countries. Even if they obtained the necessary documents, they often had to wait months or years before leaving. Many families out of desperation sent their children first.

In July 1938, representatives of 32 countries met in the French town of Evian to discuss the refugee and immigration problem created by the Nazis in Germany. Nothing substantial was done or decided at the Evian Conference, and it became apparent to Hitler that no one wanted the Jews and that he would not meet resistance in instituting his Jewish policies. By the autumn of 1941, Europe was in effect sealed to most legal emigration. The Jews were trapped.

On November 9-10, 1938, the attacks on the Jews became violent. Hershel Grynszpan, a 17-year-old Jewish boy distraught at the deportation of his family, shot Ernst vom Rath, the third secretary in the German Embassy in Paris, who died on November 9. Nazi hooligans used this assassination as the pretext for instigating a night of destruction that is now known as Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass). They looted and destroyed Jewish homes and businesses and burned synagogues. Many Jews were beaten and killed; 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.

The Jews Are Confined to Ghettos

Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, beginning World War II. Soon after, in 1940, the Nazis began establishing ghettos for the Jews of Poland. More than 10 percent of the Polish population was Jewish, numbering about three million. Jews were forcibly deported from their homes to live in crowded ghettos, isolated from the rest of society. This concentration of the Jewish population later aided the Nazis in their deportation of the Jews to the death camps. The ghettos lacked the necessary food, water, space, and sanitary facilities required by so many people living within their constricted boundaries. Many died from deprivation, starvation, and disease.

The "Final Solution" to the "Jewish Problem": Annihilation

In June 1941 Germany attacked the Soviet Union and began the "Final Solution." Four mobile killing groups were formed called Einsatzgruppen A, B, C, and D. Each group contained several commando units. The Einsatzgruppen gathered Jews town by town, marched them to huge pits dug earlier, stripped them, lined them up, and shot them with

automatic weapons. The dead and dying would fall into the pits to be buried in mass graves. In the infamous Babi Yar massacre, near Kiev, 30,000-35,000 Jews were killed in two days. In addition to their operations in the Soviet Union, the Einsatzgruppen conducted mass murder in eastern Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia. It is estimated that by the end of 1942, the Einsatzgruppen had murdered more than 1.3 million Jews.

On January 20, 1942, several top officials of the German government met to officially coordinate the military and civilian administrative branches of the Nazi system in order to organize a system of mass murder of the Jews. This meeting, called the Wannsee Conference, "marked the beginning of the full-scale, comprehensive extermination operation [of the Jews] and laid the foundations for its organization, which started immediately after the conference ended" (Yahil, *The Holocaust*, 318).

While the Nazis murdered other national and ethnic groups, such as a number of Soviet prisoners of war, Polish intellectuals, and gypsies, only the Jews were marked for systematic and total annihilation. In the famed Nazi use of euphemism, they were marked for "Special Treatment" (*Sonderbehandlung*). "Special Treatment" meant that Jewish men, women, and children were to be methodically killed with poisonous gas. In the exacting records kept at the Auschwitz death camp, the cause of death of Jews who had been gassed was indicated by "SB," the first letters of the two words that form the German term for "Special Treatment."

By the spring of 1942, the Nazis had established six operating killing centers, or death camps, in Poland: Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek, and Auschwitz. All were located near railway lines so that Jews could easily be transported to them on a daily basis. A vast system of camps (called Lagersystem) supported the death camps. The purpose of these camps varied: some were slave labor camps, some transit camps, others concentration camps and their sub-camps, and still others the notorious death camps. Some camps combined all of these functions or a few of them. All the camps were intolerably brutal. (For a glossary of the kinds of prisoners held in the camps, see Types of Camp Prisoners.)

The major concentration camps were Ravensbruck, Neuengamme, Bergen-Belsen, Sachsenhausen, Gross-Rosen, Buchenwald, Theresienstadt, Flossenburg, Natzweiler-Struthof, Dachau, Mauthausen, Stutthof, and Dora/Nordhausen.

In nearly every country overrun by the Nazis, the Jews were forced to wear badges marking them as Jews, they were rounded up into ghettos or concentration camps, and then gradually transported to the killing centers. The death camps were essentially factories for murdering Jews. The Germans shipped thousands of Jews to them each day. Within a few hours of their arrival, the Jews had been stripped of their possessions and valuables, gassed to death, and their bodies burned in specially designed crematoriums. Approximately 3.5 million Jews were murdered in these death camps.

Many healthy, young, and strong Jews, however, were not killed immediately. The Germans' war effort and the "Final Solution" required a great deal of manpower, so the Germans reserved large pools of Jews from the ovens for slave labor. These people, imprisoned in concentration and labor camps, were forced to work in German munitions and other factories, such as I.G. Farben and Krupps, and wherever the Nazis needed laborers. They were worked from dawn until dark without adequate food and shelter. Thousands perished, literally worked to death by the Germans and their collaborators.

In the last months of Hitler's Reich, as the German armies retreated, the Nazis began marching the prisoners still alive in the concentration camps to the territory they still controlled. The Germans forced the starving and sick Jews to walk hundreds of miles. Most died or were shot along the way. About a quarter of a million Jews died as a result of the death marches.

Jewish Resistance

The Germans' overwhelming repression and the presence of many collaborators in the various local populations severely limited the ability of the Jews to resist. Jewish resistance did occur, however, and took several forms. Staying alive, clean, and observing Jewish religious traditions constituted resistance under the dehumanizing conditions imposed by the Nazis. Other forms of resistance involved escape attempts from the ghettos and camps. Many who succeeded in escaping the ghettos lived in the forests and mountains in family camps and in fighting partisan units. Once free, though, the Jews had to contend with local residents and partisan groups who were often openly hostile. Jews also staged armed revolts in the ghettos of Vilna, Bialystok, Bedzin-Sosnowiec, Cracow, and Warsaw.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was the largest ghetto revolt. Massive deportations (or Aktions) had been held in the ghetto from July to September 1942, emptying the ghetto of the majority of Jews imprisoned there. When the Germans entered the ghetto again in January 1943 to remove several thousand more, small unorganized groups of Jews attacked them. After four days, the Germans withdrew from the ghetto, having deported far fewer people than they had intended. The Nazis reentered the ghetto on April 19, 1943, the eve of Passover, to evacuate the remaining Jews and close the ghetto. The Jews, using homemade bombs and stolen or bartered weapons, resisted and withstood the Germans for 27 days. They fought from bunkers and the sewers and evaded capture until finally the Germans burned the ghetto building by building. By May 16 the ghetto was in ruins and the uprising crushed.

Jews also revolted in the death camps of Sobibor, Treblinka, and Auschwitz. All of these acts of resistance were largely unsuccessful in the face of the superior German forces, but they were very important spiritually, giving the Jews hope that one day the Nazis would be defeated.

Righteous Gentiles

Some non-Jews resisted the Germans by hiding Jews or helping them to escape the Nazi net. These people, who often risked their lives and the lives of their families and friends to save Jews, are called Righteous Gentiles. The people of Denmark as a whole defied Hitler's orders and Germany's might by refusing to hand over their fellow Jewish citizens for slaughter. The Danes succeeded in hiding nearly 7,200 Jews and clandestinely transporting them to safety in neutral Sweden. Raoul Wallenberg, a young Swedish diplomat, saved 100,000 Hungarian Jews by issuing them passports that protected them from deportation. Oscar Schindler, a German factory owner, saved his Jewish slave laborers by single-handedly retrieving them from transports to the concentration camps. He fed and housed them in his own labor camp and kept them working in his factory until the war was over. Some of the righteous gentiles took in Jewish children and raised them as their own, thus saving their lives.

Liberation and the End of War

The camps were liberated gradually, as the Allies advanced on the German army. For example, Majdanek (near Lublin, Poland) was liberated by Soviet forces in July 1944, Auschwitz in January 1945 by the Soviets, Bergen-Belsen (near Hanover, Germany) by the British in April 1945, and Dachau by the Americans in April 1945.

At the end of the war, between 50,000 and 100,000 Jewish survivors were living in three zones of occupation: American, British, and Soviet. Within a year that figure grew to about 200,000. The American zone of occupation contained more than 90 percent of the Jewish displaced persons (DPs). The Jewish DPs would not and could not return to their homes, which brought back such horrible memories and still held the threat of danger from anti-Semitic neighbors. Thus, they languished in DP camps until emigration could be arranged to Palestine, and later Israel, the United States, South America, and other countries. The last DP camp closed in 1957 (David S. Wyman, "The United States," in David S. Wyman, ed., *The World Reacts to the Holocaust*, Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, 707-10. Book initiated and developed by the Holocaust Memorial Center, America's First, West Bloomfield, Michigan).

The Human Toll

Below are figures for the number of Jews murdered in each country that came under German domination. They are estimates, as are all figures relating to Holocaust victims. The numbers given here for Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Romania are based on their territorial borders before the 1938 Munich agreement. The total number of six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, which emerged from the Nuremberg trials, is also an estimate. Numbers have ranged between five and seven million killed.

Africa	526	Hungary	305,000
Albania	200	Italy	8,000
Austria	65,000	Latvia	85,000
Belgium	24,387	Lithuania	135,000
Czechoslovakia	277,000	Luxembourg	700
Denmark	77	Netherlands	106,000
Estonia	4,000	Norway	728
France	83,000	Poland	3,001,000
Germany	160,000	Romania	364,632
Greece	71,301	Soviet Union	1,500,000
		Yugoslavia	67,122

Holocaust Timeline

1933

JANUARY 30

Adolf Hitler becomes the chancellor of Germany.

FEBRUARY 28

Nazis declare emergency after Reichstag fire; consolidate fire.

MARCH 22

First concentration camp is opened in Dachau.

MAY 10

Books written by Jewish authors and other Nazi opponents are publicly burned.

JULY 14

Law is passed in Germany providing forced sterilization of handicapped persons, Gypsies and Blacks.
Nazi Party becomes the one and only legal party in Germany.



Adolf Hitler - Dictator of Nazi Germany

1934

JANUARY 26

Germany and Poland sign a non-aggression pact.

AUGUST 2

Hitler proclaims himself as Führer and Reichskanzler - Leader and Reich Chancellor. Armed forces must swear allegiance to him.

1935

SEPTEMBER 15

Nuremberg Laws are passed. The Nuremberg Laws state that Jews are no longer considered German citizens, they cannot marry Aryans, and they cannot fly the German flag.

NOVEMBER 15

The term "Jew" is defined: A Jew is anyone with three Jewish grandparents, or someone

<p>with two Jewish grandparents who identifies him/herself as a Jew.</p>	
<p>1936</p> <p>MARCH 7 Germany occupies Rhineland, flouting the Versailles Treaty.</p> <p>AUGUST The 1936 Olympic Games take place in Berlin.</p> <p>OCTOBER 25 Hitler and Benito Mussolini form the Rome-Berlin Axis.</p>	 <p>German citizens saluting Hitler at the opening of the 11th Olympic Games.</p>
<p>1937</p> <p>JUNE 15 Buchenwald concentration camp opens.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 7 Hitler declares the end of the Versailles Treaty.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 25 Germany and Japan sign a military and political pact.</p>	
<p>1938</p> <p>MARCH 13 <i>Anschluss</i>: The incorporation of Austria into the Reich. All anti-Semitic decrees are immediately applied to Austria.</p> <p>JULY 6-13 Evian Conference is held at Evian-les-Bains in France. The purpose of this conference is to discuss the Jewish refugee problem. However, little action is taken to solve the problem.</p> <p>JULY 8 The Great Synagogue in Munich is torn down on Nazi orders.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 29 The Munich Conference: Great Britain and France agree to grant Sudetenland, a part of Czechoslovakia, to Germany.</p> <p>OCTOBER 28</p>	

<p>15,000 Polish citizens who live in Germany are forced to Poland, which denies them entry.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 9-10 <i>Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass):</i> A long planned anti-Jewish pogrom in Germany, Austria and the Sudetenland. In this tragedy, 200 synagogues are destroyed, 7500 Jewish shops are looted, and 30,000 Jewish males are sent to concentration camps.</p>	
<p>1939</p> <p>JANUARY 30 Hitler announces in Reichstag speech that if a war erupts, it will mean the extermination of European Jews.</p> <p>MAY "St. Louis" ship, carrying 937 Jews, is sent back to Germany from Cuba and America.</p> <p>MAY 17 The British White Paper is published. This paper limits the number of Jewish immigrants to Palestine, a Middle-Eastern territory where Jews wanted a homeland.</p> <p>AUGUST 23 A non-aggression pact between the Soviet Union and Germany is signed .</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 1 World War II begins. Germany invades Poland.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 2 Great Britain and France declare war against Germany.</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 17 The Red (Soviet) Army annexes parts of eastern Poland.</p> <p>OCTOBER 8 The first ghetto is established in Poland, in Protokow Trybunalski.</p> <p>NOVEMBER 23 Jews in German-occupied Poland are forced to wear an armband with a yellow star.</p>	

1940

SPRING

Germany occupies Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Northern France.

MAY 7

The Lodz Ghetto is created.

MAY 20

The Auschwitz concentration camp is established.

OCTOBER 16

Order for the creation of the Warsaw Ghetto.

NOVEMBER 16

Warsaw Ghetto, containing 500,000 people, is sealed.



A close look at the model of the Warsaw Ghetto in the Holocaust Center. The Jews were ordered to use the bridge separating the two parts of the ghetto so that they would remain separated from non-Jews.

1941

JANUARY 21-31

Anti-Jewish riots in Romania: hundreds of Jews are killed.

MARCH

Jews throughout Eastern Europe are forced into ghettos.

JUNE

11,000 Jews are massacred in Romania.

JUNE 23

The Einsatzgruppen, mobile units of the German army which carry out mass killing of Jews and other "undesirables," follow the invading German army and start operations in the Soviet Union.

JULY 31

Reinhard Heydrich is appointed to implement the "Final Solution" of the "Jewish question" -- the extermination of European Jewry.

FALL

"Babi Yar" massacre of over 60,000 Jews near Kiev.

DECEMBER 7

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.

DECEMBER 11

Germany and Italy declare war on the United States.

<p>Beginning in 1941, there were a lot of mass killings of Jews, first in Russia and then in the rest of Europe. Some were transported to concentration camps and killed there. By the end of the "Final Solution," millions of European Jews died.</p>	
<p>1942</p> <p>JANUARY 20 A conference is held in Wannsee to coordinate the "Final Solution" -- the extermination of all Jews.</p> <p>SPRING - SUMMER Deportations from Polish ghettos to death camps begin.</p> <p>NOVEMBER Many ghettos are emptied as Jews are deported to concentration camps and death camps. Jewish partisan movement is organized in forests near Lublin, Poland.</p>	
<p>1943</p> <p>APRIL 19 Bermuda Conference: fruitless discussion of rescuing Jewish victims. Liquidation of Warsaw ghettos begins.</p> <p>APRIL 19 - MAY 16 Warsaw Ghetto uprising begins as Germans attempt to liquidate 70,000 inhabitants.</p> <p>JUNE 11 Heinrich Himmler orders the liquidation of all ghettos in Poland, which continues until August, 1944.</p> <p>OCTOBER 1 - 2 The Danish population begins a systematic rescue of 7,200 Danish Jews by ferrying them across to Sweden.</p>	

1944

MARCH 15

Soviet forces begin the liberation of Transnistria, crossing the Bug River and reaching the Dneister River on March 20. Only 30,000 of the 330,000 Jews in the region are still alive.

JUNE 6

D-Day: Allied forces land in Normandy with the largest seaborne force in history.

JULY

Soviet troops liberate the Majdanek camp in Poland.

1945

JANUARY 27

Death marches from camps begin. Soviet troops liberate the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp.

APRIL - MAY

The Allied Forces liberate more concentration camps.

APRIL 30

Hitler commits suicide in his bunker in Berlin.

MAY 7

Germany surrenders unconditionally to the Allies.

MAY 8

V.E. Day - Victory in Europe. The war in Europe is officially over.

NOVEMBER

Nuremberg Trials begin. Trials of Nazi war criminals are held before the International Military Tribunal (IMT). This group tries captured political, military and economic leaders for crimes against humanity.



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Glossary of Names and Commonly Used Terms

Abegg, Elisabeth (Germany)

Elisabeth Abegg was a Quaker who taught history at the Berlin Luisen girls' school until she was dismissed in 1933 by the Nazi school director for her anti-Nazi views. In 1942, at age 60, she began using her home as a temporary shelter and assembly point for rescuing many Jews. She then expanded her activities to create a rescue network made up of friends and former students. They sheltered Jews in and around Berlin, Alsace and East Prussia and provided false identities, money and provisions. She even sold her jewelry and other valuables to finance her rescue operations.

Aktion Reinhard

The code name of the operation that had as its goal the annihilation of the entire Jewish population of the Generalgouvernement, the portion of Poland occupied by Germany. The operation was dubbed "Aktion Reinhard" by SS men in honor of Reinhard Heydrich, the main architect of the Final Solution, who was assassinated by members of the Czech underground in June 1942. Three death camps were built to accomplish the mass murder: Belzec, Sobibor, and Treblinka. Aktion Reinhard began in mid-March 1942 and ended in November 1943, during which more than two million Jews were killed.

Alienation

Feelings of separation from others or from meaningful activity; confusion about life and the future.

Allies

France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States which were the four major opponents of the Axis countries, Germany, Italy and Japan, during World War II.

Anschluss

The annexation of Austria by Germany on March 13, 1938.

Anti-Semitism

Prejudice against and fear of Jews. Traditionally based on religion, anti-Semitism became political in the 19th century and racial in the 20th century under Hitler. The term "anti-Semitism" was first applied to a movement in opposition to the Jews in the second half of the 19th century. Under Hitler, Jews were considered biologically inferior and thus beyond redemption. Even conversion, which satisfied anti-Semites in earlier times, could not save them. The Jews, and only the Jews, were subjected to a widespread and orchestrated propaganda smear campaign; forcibly rounded up into ghettos; and murdered in specially designed death camps.

Appel

Roll call in the camps.

Appelplatz

Roll call area in concentration, labor and death camps.

Armistice

Peace; calling a halt to armed hostilities.

Aryan Race

"Aryan" was a 19th-century linguistics term used to describe the Indo-European languages. The term was subsequently perverted to refer to the people who spoke those languages, which the Nazis deemed superior to those people who spoke Semitic languages. Thus, Aryan came to describe people of "proven" non-Jewish and purely Teutonic "racial" background.

Aryanization

The expropriation of Jewish businesses, enterprises, and property, by German authorities and their transfer to "aryan" ownership or control.

Assimilate

To absorb or become alike. Both German and Dutch Jews had become assimilated into the non-Jewish culture around them.

Atrocities

Cruel or brutal acts

Auschwitz

Concentration and extermination camp in Upper Silesia, Poland. Established in 1940 as a concentration camp, it became an extermination camp in early 1942. Eventually, it consisted of three sections: Auschwitz I was the main camp; Auschwitz II, Birkenau, was an extermination camp; and Auschwitz III, Monowitz, was the I.G. Farben labor camp, also known as Buna. Auschwitz also operated a number of subsidiary camps. The Polish government and the Auschwitz State Museum officially estimate that 1.1 million people died at the camp: one million Jews, 70,000 to 75,000 Poles, 21,000 Gypsies, 15,000 Soviet POWs, and 5,000 others. Other estimates reach 1.6 million murdered at Auschwitz, 1.35 million being Jews.

Beer-hall Putsch

The event that took place in Munich, Germany, in 1923, when Hitler led an attempt to seize the government (a putsch). The putsch failed and resulted in a jail sentence as well as a lesson for Hitler, that in order to gain power he would have to work within the system.

Belzec

One of three killing centers in eastern Poland (the other two were Sobibor and Treblinka). It was established in 1942 and was closed in January 1943. During that time, more than 600,000 people were killed there, nearly all of them Jews.

Benders, Johan (Netherlands)

Johan Benders was a teacher at the Amsterdam Lyceum and encouraged the students to manufacture false papers for Jews. He and his wife, Gerritdina, gave shelter to Jews, including several children. In 1943, the Benders were betrayed by one of their neighbors. Johan was brutally tortured during his interrogation and twice tried to commit suicide. On April 6, 1943, he jumped to his death from the third floor of the prison. Gerritdina was pregnant and left with their two young daughters. In a heart-rending requiem for their dead teacher, many of Johan's former students marched past the jail whistling the school tune. Despite the tragedy, Gerritdina continued to shelter Jewish refugees. A street in Amsterdam has been named in memory of Johan Benders. On March 27, 1997, Yad Vashem recognized Johan Benders and his wife, Gerritdina Benders-Letterboer, as Righteous Among the Nations.

Bielski Brothers (Belarus)

The Bielski Brothers Brigade was a most effective and feared resistance group which operated in the Novogrudok area Naliboki forest. Tuvia Bielski, commander, was exceptional in that he actively sought to shelter all fellow Jews in his camp--men, women and children, the elderly and the sick. He sometimes forced unwilling and frightened ghetto internees to go with him against what they thought was better judgment. He and his group were in constant danger, yet he never lost sight of his ultimate goal to save as many of his fellow Jews as possible. At war's end, more than 1,200 Jews were saved.

Borkowska, Anna (Poland)

Anna Borkowska was the Mother Superior of a small cloister of Dominican sisters in Kolonia Wilenska near Vilna. During the summer 1941 Ponary massacres, she concealed a number of Jews in the convent and later smuggled weapons into the Vilna ghetto. The Nazis grew suspicious of her activities and arrested her and closed the convent. She survived the war and was honored by Yad Vashem in 1984.

Boycott

To boycott is to refuse to do business with a specific group. The Nazis boycotted Jewish businesses and kept all Germans from buying from or selling to Jewish merchants.

Buchenwald

One of the first concentration camps in Germany, formed in 1937, near Weimar.

Camp System

Immediately after their assumption of power on January 30, 1933, the Nazis established a complex network of facilities and camps, called Lager, in Germany and German-occupied territory, for the imprisonment of enemies of their regime. These enemies included actual and potential political opponents (Communists, Socialists, and Monarchists, for example), Jehovah's Witnesses, Gypsies, homosexuals, and other so-called asocials. The general roundup of Jews did not start until 1938. Before then, only Jews who fit one of the above categories were interned in concentration camps. The first three concentration camps were Dachau (near Munich), Buchenwald (near Weimar), and Sachsenhausen (near Berlin).

The Lager system essentially consisted of the following kinds of camps:

When preceded by "Frauen," the camp was designated for women.

Arbeitserziehungslager: Workers education camp
Arbeitshaus: Work house
Arbeitslager: Labor camp
Aussenkommando: Satellite camp
Durchgangslager: Transit camp
Gemeinschaftslager: Civilian workers camp
Haftlager: Custody camp
Internierungslager: Civilian internment camp
Jugendschutzlager: Protection camp for youths
Jugendverwahrlager: Detention camp for youths
Julag (Judenlager): Camp for Jews
Kriegsgefangenenlager: Prisoner of war camp
Konzentrationslager: Concentration camp
Polizeihaftlager: Police custody camp
RAD (Reichs Arbeits Dienst) Lager: National Labor Service camp
Schutzhaftlager: Security camp
Sonderlager: Special camp
Strafgefangenenlager: Penal or punishment camp
Straflager: Penal or punishment camp
Vernichtungslager: Extermination camp
Vorzugslager: Preferential camp
Wohnlager: Housing units
Zwangsarbeitslager: Forced (slave) labor camp

Chelmno

A death camp at a village near the Polish town of Kala. Chelmno was equipped with gas chambers and five crematoriums. It was established in 1941 and 370,000 people were murdered there, 365,000 of whom were Jews.

Collaborate

During a war, to collaborate means to aid or cooperate with the enemy.

Dachau

The first concentration camp in Germany, established near Munich in March 1933 immediately after Hitler's assumption of power.

Death Marches

The forced marches of Jewish prisoners over great distances. During these marches the Jews were starved, brutalized, and killed. Relatively few survived the experience; the paths traveled were literally littered with bodies. Although death marches occurred throughout the war, the largest and deadliest occurred during the last phase of the war when the Nazis were retreating to Germany during the Soviet offensive in 1944. It is estimated that 250,000 died in death marches between the summer of 1944 and the end of the war.

The Danish Government (Denmark)

The Danish Government reached an understanding with the occupying Nazis that the Jewish population would not be harmed, but in 1943, it was discovered that the Nazis planned to rescind this agreement. Many quarters of Danish society joined in a vast rescue effort: Danish fishermen transported Jews to Sweden; educational, economic,

religious and social organizations protested to the Nazis—including King Christian X. The Danish police not only allowed the rescue campaign to continue without disturbance, but participated in it. Within three weeks 7,200 persons—the majority of Danish Jews—and hundreds of their non-Jewish relatives, had been sent to safety in Sweden.

Discriminate

To discriminate can mean to make a distinction, but it also means to act on the basis of prejudice or unfairness.

Deport

To deport a person is to exile or remove that person from a country.

Eichmann, Adolf

Lieutenant-colonel and head of the "Jewish Section" of the Gestapo. Instrumental in implementing the Final Solution, organizing the transportation of Jews from all over Europe to the death and concentration camps. He was a participant at the Wannsee Conference on January 20, 1942, during which the program for the extermination of the Jews was organized. Eichmann was arrested at the end of World War II in the American zone, but escaped, went underground, and disappeared. On May 11, 1960, members of the Israeli Secret Service discovered him living in Argentina, captured him, and smuggled him to Israel. Under intense international scrutiny, he was tried in Jerusalem (between April and December 1961), convicted, and sentenced to death. He was executed on May 31, 1962.

Eicke, Theodor

Eicke joined the Nazi party and the SA in 1928. He transferred to the SS in 1930. Appointed commandant of Dachau in 1933, Eicke later became the inspector of concentration camps. He was known for his cruel treatment of prisoners, which became the norm in concentration camps. In 1939 Eicke was given command of the Death's Head division of the Waffen-SS. He was killed on the eastern front on February 16, 1943.

Einsatzgruppen

The four (A, B, C, D) mobile units of the Security Police and SS Security Service, composed of up to six "Einsatzkommandos, that followed the German armies into the Soviet Union in June 1941 for "special missions in occupied territory". Their charge was to kill all Jews, as well as Soviet commissars and "mental defectives." They were supported by units of the uniformed German Order Police and used local Ukrainian, Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian volunteers for the killings. The victims were shot and buried in mass graves. At least 1.3 million Jews were killed in this manner.

Einsatzkommando

A detachment of an Einsatzgruppe.

Eisenhower, Dwight D.

American general and 34th president of the United States between 1953-61. In 1942 he was named U.S. Commander of the European Theater of Operations. He commanded the American landings in North Africa and in February 1943 became chief of all the Allied forces in North Africa. After successfully directing the invasions of Sicily and Italy, he was called to England to become chief commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces.

He was largely responsible for the cooperation of the Allied armies in the battle for the liberation of the European continent.

Euthanasia

The original meaning of this term was quick and painless death for the terminally ill. However, euthanasia under the Nazis took on quite a different meaning: practicing eugenics in order to improve the quality of the German race. This was the beginning of a development that culminated in the killing of the incurably insane, permanently disabled, deformed and those people deemed superfluous. In due course, three major classifications were developed: 1) euthanasia for incurables; 2) direct extermination by "Special Treatment" (gassing); and 3) experiments in mass sterilization.

Euthanasia Program

The program under which the Nazis murdered the people they deemed socially and genetically inferior. It was carried out under the code name "T4" (from the address "4 Tiergartenstrasse" of the Euthanasia Program's headquarters).

I. G. Farben

A German conglomerate of eight chemical companies, including BASF, Bayer, and Hoechst, that made extensive use of slave labor. In close partnership with Hitler, I. G. Farben established factories near concentration camps to take advantage of the large pools of forced laborers. Its Buna works near Auschwitz manufactured synthetic rubber from coal or gasoline. I. G. Farben was an important contributor to Hitler's rearming of Germany and the actual war effort.

Father Marie-Benoit/Padre Benedetti (France)

Father Marie-Benoit turned the local monastery of Bourg d'ire, Maine-et-Loire, into a rescue agency where Jews could obtain false papers. He established ties in Nice with representatives of the Union of French Jews and with Italian officials in an effort to transport Jews into Italy. The Gestapo forced him to flee to Italy where he accepted the leadership of the Committee to Assist Jewish Immigrants. He established contact with Italian, Swiss, Hungarian, French, and Romanian officials for the sole purpose of helping Jews, and became known as the "Father of the Jews."

Final Solution

The cover name for the German plan to murder all the Jews of Europe. Beginning in 1941, Jews were rounded up all over Europe and sent to extermination camps in Poland. The transports to the camps were disguised as part of a program for the Jews' "resettlement in the East."

Frank, Hans

The legal expert of the Nazi party and Hitler's personal lawyer, Frank was an early supporter of Hitler and participated in the beer hall putsch in 1923. He served as the head of the Generalgouvernement in Poland from 1939-45 and as such he controlled Europe's largest Jewish population and oversaw the Nazis' major killing centers. He was tried at Nuremberg, where he admitted his guilt. "A thousand years will pass" he said, "and still this guilt of Germany will not have been erased." Frank was sentenced to death and hanged in 1946.

Fry, Varian (United States)

Following the occupation of France by the Germans, the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC) was established in the US primarily to assist Jewish intellectuals stranded in France to come to the US. Fry's role was to find a way to get these refugees out of France. He employed an array of schemes—most of which were illegal. He was arrested but was able to continue his activities for a further 13 months, before being deported from France back to the US. In all he helped approximately 4,000 Jews—among them a number of well-known figures, including Hannah Arendt, Marc Chagall, Jacques Lipchitz, Siegfried Kracauer and Leon Feuchtwanger.

Ganzenmüller, Albert

The state secretary of the Reich Transportation Ministry from 1942-45, Ganzenmüller was responsible for overseeing the German railway system during the period in which approximately three million Jews were transported to the death camps by rail. After the war, he escaped to Argentina, but returned to Germany in 1955. In 1973 Ganzenmüller was brought to trial, but died of a heart attack during the proceedings.

Gas Chambers

A construction unit made up of an anteroom, gas chamber, and crematorium. Victims, told that they were to take a shower, undressed in the anteroom and then moved into a large room (the largest could hold up to two thousand people) with shower heads in the ceiling. The door to the "shower room" was hermetically sealed and poisonous Zyklon B gas was released from the shower heads. When all the victims were dead, the corpses were wheeled to the crematorium and burned. This method of disposal hid the evidence of the crime and was efficient and cheap.

Generalgouvernement

The Government General, the German civilian government of German occupied Poland, with headquarters in Krakow. Classified as appended territory.

Genocide

The deliberate murder of an ethnic, religious, racial, or national group. The term was first coined by Raphael Lemkin in 1944 to describe the Nazis' systematic annihilation of the Jews of Europe. Lemkin, a Polish Jew, lost 72 of the 74 members of his family in the Holocaust.

Gestapo

The Nazi Secret State Police. The name was created from the first letter of the German name **Ge**heime **St**aats **Pol**izei. Established in Prussia in 1933, its power spread throughout Germany after 1936. The Gestapo's chief purpose was the persecution of Jews and dissident political parties. Under Himmler's direction, the Gestapo was a prime force in the murder of the six million Jews.

Ghetto

The Nazis revived the medieval term "ghetto," designating a walled community, to describe their compulsory Jewish quarters. These ghettos were created in the poor sections of cities. Non-Jews were evicted from these sections, and all the Jews living in the surrounding areas were transported there and forced to live there. Surrounded by barbed wire or walls, these ghettos were sealed, and no one could legally leave. Established mostly in eastern Europe (in Lodz, Warsaw, Vilna, Riga, and Minsk, for

example), the ghettos were vastly overcrowded. Food was scarce and sanitation poor; disease and starvation killed hundreds daily. These ghettos served as collection centers and facilitated subsequent deportations to the death camps.

Glücks, Richard

In 1936 Glücks became chief aide to Theodor Eicke and eventually succeeded Eicke as the inspector of concentration camps. Glücks was responsible for the construction of Auschwitz and the creation of the gas chambers. In 1942 he was made head of an SS Wirtschafts-Verwaltungshauptamt unit. He died in May 1945, presumably a suicide.

Goebbels, Joseph

Goebbels joined the Nazi party in 1924 and became the party's chief of propaganda in 1930. He was responsible for garnering support for the Nazis among the general population. After Hitler's rise to power in 1933, Goebbels became the minister of propaganda and public information. He controlled the media and oversaw the "Nazification" of public discourse and written materials. He supervised the publication of *Der Stürmer* and conducted the propaganda campaign against the Jews. He was responsible for the book burning of May 10, 1933. On the day following Hitler's death, Goebbels and his wife committed suicide in Hitler's bunker, after first ordering the murder of their six children, all under the age of thirteen.

Göring, Herman

Göring joined the Nazi party in 1922 and took part in the beer hall putsch of 1923. He was one of the men responsible for creating the Gestapo and was the commander of the German Luftwaffe (air force). Göring also supervised the confiscation and administration of Jewish wealth. He was tried and sentenced to death at the Nuremberg trials, but he poisoned himself in his cell before the sentence could be carried out.

Hess, Rudolf

A close aide to Hitler, he was one of the first to join the Nazi party in 1920. He was arrested and imprisoned along with Hitler after the November 1923 beer hall putsch. He helped Hitler compose *Mein Kampf* while they were both in prison. In May 1941 Hess flew to Britain in the hope of persuading the British to make peace with Germany. Hess was arrested upon landing and spent the rest of his life in prison. He committed suicide in 1987, the only inmate of the Spandau Prison in West Berlin.

Heydrich, Reinhard

Head of the Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police, or Sipo), the SD (Sicherheitsdienst, Security Service), and Reichssicherheitsdienst, Security Service), and the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Security Main Office, RSHA). He was the main planner and executor of the anti-Jewish policies of the Nazis. In June 1942 he was attacked by Czech resistance fighters and died of his wounds. In retaliation the Germans destroyed the Czech town of Lidice and killed all its male inhabitants.

Himmler, Heinrich

Reich leader of the SS, Gestapo, and the Waffen-SS and German minister of the interior from 1943-45. The most powerful man in Germany after Hitler, Himmler was instrumental in establishing the concentration camp system and overseeing the implementation of the Final Solution. After Germany's surrender he tried to escape but

was captured by the British. He committed suicide in May 1945 before he could be brought to trial for his war crimes.

Hitler, Adolf

Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor of Germany, Hitler was born in Austria, but settled in Munich in 1913. At the outbreak of World War I, he enlisted in the Bavarian army, in which he became a corporal and received the Iron Cross First Class for bravery. Returning to Munich after the war, he joined with a few nationalist veterans in the German Workers' party. In 1920 the party was reorganized under his leadership and became the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP, or Nazi party). In November 1923 Hitler attempted the Beer-Hall Putsch in Munich, which was supposed to bring Germany under nationalist control. When the coup failed, he fled but was arrested and sentenced to five years in the Landsberg fortress. He served only nine months, but during that time he dictated to Rudolf Hess the text of *Mein Kampf*, which became the bible of National Socialism.

In 1938 Hitler implemented his dream of a "Greater Germany" by first annexing Austria, then (with the agreement of the Western democracies) the Sudetenland (the German province of Czechoslovakia), and finally Czechoslovakia itself. On September 1, 1939, Hitler's army invaded Poland. By then the Western democracies realized that no agreement with Hitler could be valid, and World War II had begun. In the blitzkrieg (lightning war) he defeated France, invaded Belgium and Holland, and occupied Denmark and Norway. In June 1941 he invaded the Soviet Union but although the Germans occupied extensive territory, they did not succeed in conquering it. England continued to fight the Germans despite significant losses. When the United States joined the war in December 1941 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the tide slowly began to turn. Although the war was obviously lost by early 1945, Hitler insisted that the Germans fight to the death. He remained in his bunker in Berlin when the city was stormed by the Red Army. On April 29, 1945, he married his longtime girlfriend, Eva Braun. On April 30 he committed suicide with her in the underground shelter of the Chancellery. Their bodies were burned by supporters at Hitler's request.

Ho, Feng-Shan (China)

Feng-Shan Ho was the Chinese consul general in Vienna during 1938-1940. After the Anschluss, the Nazis required that Austrian Jews have entry visas or boat tickets to another country before being allowed to leave. Unlike most of his fellow-diplomats, he issued visas to Shanghai to all who requested them. Thanks to him, hundreds of Jews were able to escape to China, or to use their visas to reach alternate destinations. He ignored the instructions of the Chinese ambassador in Berlin and was given a demerit in 1939. After a long diplomatic career, Ho retired in 1973, and died in 1997, at the age of 96.

Höss, Rudolf

A member of the SS, Höss held various positions in Dachau under Theodor Eicke before he was assigned to Auschwitz in May 1940. He became the camp's first commandant. At Auschwitz Höss oversaw the operation that murdered more than one million people. At the end of the war, he adopted the name Franz Lang and escaped detection by the Allies. In March 1946, however, he was recognized and arrested. He was tried in Poland and sentenced to death. Höss was hanged in Auschwitz on April 16, 1947.

IKL (Inspektor der Konzentrationslager)

Inspector of concentration camps.

Judenrat

The Jewish council (government) in ghettos. The council of Jewish elders, the official body of Jewish representatives organized by the Germans in the ghettos and camps to administer the occupied Jewish communities. They were established in September 1939 by the order of Reinhard Heydrich to provide a link to the Jewish Community and to furnish the personnel for labor assignments and deportations.

Kaltenbrunner, Ernst

An Austrian, Kaltenbrunner was the head of the SS in Austria from 1935-38, when Germany formally annexed the country. After the takeover he became undersecretary of state for public security. After Reinhard Heydrich's death, Kaltenbrunner became chief of the Sicherheitspolizei (Security Police, Sipo) and the SD (Sicherheitsdienst, Security Service). He, along with Heinrich Himmler, was responsible for Aktion Reinhard. After the war, Kaltenbrunner was tried at Nuremberg and sentenced to death. He was hanged on October 16, 1946.

Karski, Jan (Poland)

Jan Karski was a Polish courier for the Armia Krajowa, Polish Home Army, assigned to report on the Polish situation, particularly the Jewish plight. To accomplish this he was smuggled into the Warsaw ghetto twice and entered the Belzec concentration camp, posing as a guard, and witnessed the mass murder program. He escaped to England and the United States where he personally informed, among many others, Winston Churchill, Rabbi Stephen Wise and Franklin D. Roosevelt of the Final Solution. He tried to arouse public awareness of the massacres in Europe. Fearing arrest by the Soviet Secret Police, he remained in the United States and continued to speak out at every opportunity.

KL (Konzentrationslager)

Concentration camp.

Kripo (Kriminalpolizei)

The Criminal Police

Kristallnacht

"The Night of the Broken Glass" in English, Kristallnacht was the name for the pogroms carried out November 9-10, 1938, in Germany. Hundreds of synagogues and Jewish-owned stores were burned and looted. Many Jews were beaten and killed, and about 30,000 were rounded up and sent to concentration camps. The name was derived from the glass fragments from broken windows that littered the streets after the pogrom.

Korczak, Janusz (Poland)

Janusz Korczak was a famous pediatrician, author, champion of children's rights and beloved director of the Jewish orphanage on Krochmala Street in the Warsaw ghetto. When the Germans arrived, he continued caring for his charges in as normal a manner as possible. Although he was offered asylum many times, he refused to abandon the children. On August 5, 1942 the Germans rounded up Korczak and his 200 children.

With Korczak at the head, they marched three miles, silently and calmly in rows of four to the Umschlagsplatz from where they were all shipped to Treblinka

Krupp

A German family firm that manufactured armaments for the Nazis. Krupp extensively used slave labor in its factories and operated a facility at Auschwitz.

Kutorgiene-Buivydaite, Elena (Lithuania)

Elena Kutorgiene-Buivydaite was an ophthalmologist by profession and worked in medical institutions in Kovno. She was active in the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants, a Jewish welfare organization for children and was in contact with Jewish doctors. During the German occupation, she concealed Jews in her home and established ties with the underground. She obtained arms, sought hiding places, distributed anti-Nazi literature and scheduled underground meetings in her home. Following the war, she was a member of the Special Government Commission for the investigation of War Crimes and in 1982 was awarded the title "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem.

Maidanek

This camp, located at Lublin-Maidanek in eastern Poland (Generalgouvernement), was opened in late 1941. At first a labor camp for Poles and a POW camp for Russians, it was classified as a concentration camp for Jews in April 1943. Like Auschwitz, it was also an extermination camp, holding large numbers of Jews, all of whom were killed in November 1943. Maidanek was liberated by the Red Army in July 1944.

Mauthausen

A concentration camp for men opened in August 1938 in Austria, near Linz. Established to exploit the nearby quarries, it was classified by the SS as a camp of utmost severity, and conditions were brutal, even by concentration camp standards. Many inmates were killed by falling or being pushed into the quarries.

Mein Kampf

Mein Kampf The autobiographical book Hitler wrote while he was imprisoned in 1924 for his role in the beer hall putsch. All his ideas, beliefs, and plans for the future of Germany, including his foreign policy, are outlined in the book. His racial ideology is also clearly defined. The Germans, belonging to the "superior" Aryan race, have a right to living space (*Lebensraum*) in the East, which is inhabited by "inferior" Slavs. Throughout the book, Hitler accuses the Jews of being the source of all evil. He compares them to the communists but at the same time claims they control international capitalism. Unfortunately, most of the people who read *Mein Kampf* (except for Hitler's admirers) did not take it seriously and believed it to be the ravings of a maniac.

Mendes, Aristedes de Sousa (Portugal)

This Portuguese minister in Bordeaux followed his conscience and, contrary to his government's orders, granted entry visas to thousands of homeless and defenseless Jews. He lost his position and forfeited his career, but remained faithful to his principles and his sense of humanity. He died in exile in the United States.

Mengele, Josef

The SS physician at Auschwitz, notorious for his pseudo-medical experiments on camp inmates and especially on twins and Gypsies. Inmates called him the Angel of Death

because he was the one who determined if new arrivals would live or die immediately in the gas chambers. A simple gesture of his hand pointing to the left or right would seal an arrival's fate. Those considered too weak or too old were sent to the gas chambers; those who he considered able to work were sent to the concentration or labor camps. After the war Mengele spent some time in a British internment hospital but disappeared and escaped, presumably to Argentina. With the assistance of government authorities in Brazil and Portugal, Mengele succeeded in avoiding arrest and trial for his crimes. He is reported to have died in Brazil in 1985.

Menorah

A seven-branched candelabrum that was used in the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem and is now used in synagogues and Jewish homes all over the world. There are several interpretations of what the menorah symbolically represents. One holds that the seven branches represent the creation of the universe in seven days, with the center light symbolizing the Sabbath. Another interpretation is that the seven branches represent the seven continents of the world and the seven heavens guided by the light of God.

Nacht und Nebel

"Night and Fog," the code name given to the decree of December 12, 1941, by the German High Command of the Armed Forces which directed that persons in occupied territories guilty of activities against Germany's armed forces were to be deported to Germany for trial by special courts and held in concentration camps.

NSDAP (National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei)

The National Socialist German Workers Party, the party led by Adolf Hitler.

Nazi

Another name for the National Socialist German Workers' Party, which Hitler reorganized in 1920.

Nevejean, Yvonne (Belgium)

Yvonne Nevejean headed the Oeuvre Nationale de l'Enfance (ONE), a Belgian government subsidized agency supervising children's homes. She rescued more than 4,000 Jewish children by providing them with new identities, ration cards and permanent places of refuge. She received help from many lay and religious persons and, with few exceptions, managed to outwit the suspicious Germans. At one point, she arranged the release of a group of children from the Mechelen camp. Children under her protection were nicknamed "Yvonne's children."

Nuremberg Laws

During the Nazi party rally in Nuremberg in the fall of 1935, the Law for the Protection of German Blood and Honor was promulgated. It prohibited marriages and extramarital intercourse between Jews and "citizens of German or related blood"; employment in Jewish households of female citizens of "German or related blood"; employment in Jewish households of female citizens or "German or related blood" under the age of 45; and the raising of the Reich flag by Jews. In November 1935 a second law was enacted, the Reich Citizenship Law, which stated that only persons of "German or related blood" could be citizens. Jews from that point on were regarded as "subjects," not citizens, of Germany.

The “NV Group” (Netherlands)

Most Dutch Jews were rounded up and sent to the Dutch Theater in Amsterdam before being sent to Westerbork Camp. Their children were separated from them and sent across the street to a nursery known as the “Creche.” Non-Jewish Dutch citizens formed a cell known as the “NV Group,” and managed to rescue over 200 Jewish children. The organization’s leaders, Joop Woortman, and Jaap Musch, were arrested. Musch was tortured to death and Woortman died in Bergen-Belsen.

Partisans

Underground fighters against Nazi occupation forces, operating mainly in the forests. There was a general partisan movement that included Jews. Jewish partisan groups operated in White Russia, Poland, and Lithuania.

Pogroms

The Yiddish word for "devastation," pogroms were violent riots against Jews in villages, towns, and large urban areas in Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries. While usually spontaneous attacks perpetrated by hooligans, they were supported by anti-Semitic elements. Often rumors, such as blood libels (in which the Jews are accused of stealing a Christian child for sacrifice in their rituals), were circulated to create trouble. Typically, the police often bribed turned a blind eye.

Race Violators

Anyone committing an act which is contrary to the anti-Semitic edicts of the Nuremberg Laws, or of other anti-Semitic or racial orders by the German government.

Reich

Literally Empire, as in Third Reich; also meaning Federal or National.

Reichssicherheitshauptamt (RSHA)

The National Central Security Department formed in 1939 combining the existing Security Police (Gestapo and Kripo) and the SD. It was the central office of the Supreme Command of the SS and the National Ministry of the Interior.

SA (Sturmabteilung)

The Stormtroopers, or "brownshirts," the original shock troops of the Nazi party founded in 1921.

Sauckel, Fritz

Sauckel joined the Nazi party in 1921 and held senior honorary ranking in both the SA and the SS before World War II. In 1942 he was appointed plenipotentiary-general for labor mobilization in which he oversaw the seizure of millions of workers for the armaments and munitions production program. His harsh treatment of slave laborers caused the deaths of thousands of Jews in Poland. Sauckel was tried and convicted of his crimes at Nuremberg and was hanged on October 16, 1946.

SD (Sicherheitsdienst)

The Security Service of the SS, formed in 1932 under Reinhard Heydrich, as the sole intelligence organization of the Nazi party.

Sendler, Irena (“Jolanta”) (Poland)

In 1939 Irena was employed by Warsaw’s Social Welfare Department and worked in special canteens, providing meals, financial aid, and other services for orphans, the elderly, and the poor. She also served Jews, who were in great need, and helped many to obtain false papers. When the Jews were placed in the ghetto, Irena managed to get permission to go and work there, and provided a vital connection with the outside world. When the deportations began in 1942, “Jolanta” did all she could to help people escape. She was betrayed and sentenced to be executed, but one of her colleagues bribed a Gestapo man and saved her life. The Jewish Historical Institute asserted that she was one of the most dedicated and active workers in aiding Jews during the Nazi occupation.

Sipo (Sicherheitspolizei)

The Security Police composed of the Gestapo and the Kripo.

Sobibor

Death camp established in 1942 and located in Poland's Lublin district. The total number of victims killed at the camp is estimated at between 225,000 and 250,000. All of the victims were Jews, The camp was closed in 1943 after an inmate uprising in which 300 prisoners escaped.

"Special Treatment"

The Nazi euphemism meaning that Jewish men, women, and children were to be methodically killed with poisonous gas. In the exacting records kept at Auschwitz, the cause of death of Jews who had been gassed was indicated by "SB," the first letters of the two words that form "Sonderbehandlung," the German term for "Special Treatment."

Speer, Albert

Hitler's architect and the German minister of armaments from 1942-45. Speer was appointed minister of armaments after Fritz Todt was killed in 1942. In this position, Speer dramatically increased armaments production through the use of millions of slave laborers. After the war, Speer was tried at Nuremberg, found guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and sentenced to twenty years in prison. At his trial Speer admitted his guilt and took responsibility for the actions of the Nazi regime.

Star of David

In Hebrew, the star is called Mogen David, the Shield of David. A long-standing symbol of Judaism, it was used by the Nazis on badges to identify Jews. After September 1, 1941, all Jews in Germany over the age of six had to wear this badge whenever they appeared in public. Being caught without it could mean death. The Nazis imposed badges on the Jews in all the countries they occupied.

SS

Abbreviation for Schutzstaffel (Protective Squad), the Nazi paramilitary blackshirted stormtroops. Formed in 1925 as the security force of the Nazi party. It was built into a giant organization by Heinrich Himmler and included, among others, the police, camp guards, and the Waffen-SS. It became the most powerful organization of the Nazi party, virtually a state within a state.

SS-Sonderlager

A special detention camp of the SS.

Stapo

The State Police.

Sugihara, Sempo (Japan)

Sempo Sugihara was the Japanese counsel in Kovno, Lithuania who risked his life and the lives of his wife and children. He defied explicit diplomatic orders and issued transit visas to Polish and Lithuanian Jews, including the students of the Mir Yeshiva, who were trying to escape both German and Soviet clutches. He worked day and night signing papers for Jews waiting in long lines around the consulate building. His hands became stiff and numb distributing these life saving documents in a race against time. Even as he was leaving Kovno, he was signing papers and shoving them through the train window. "I should follow my conscience. I cannot allow these people to die."

Swastika

Sanskrit name for a hooked cross (Hakenkreuz in German) used by ancient civilizations as a symbol of fertility and good fortune. It has been found in the ruins of Troy, Egypt, China, and India. It was adopted by the Nazis and transformed into a symbol of Aryan supremacy.

Treblinka

Death camp in Poland that was established in May 1942. Between 700,000 and 900,000 people perished in this camp, nearly all of them Jews. The camp was closed in mid-1943.

Ulkumen, Selahattin (Turkey)

Selahattin Ulkumen was the Turkish consul-general on the Greek island of Rhodes. In late July 1944, the Germans began the deportation of the islands 1,700 Jews, but Ulkumen managed to save about 50 of them by issuing them documents declaring their Turkish nationality. In many cases this was a false claim and Ulkumen lied many times to suspicious Gestapo agents, claiming that under Turkish law the spouses of Turkish citizens were considered to be citizens themselves.

Waffen-SS

Militarized units of the SS.

Wallenberg, Raoul (Sweden)

Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish diplomat who arrived in Budapest in July 1944. He was responsible for rescuing more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews from July to December 1944. He designed, issued and personally distributed "Schutzpasse," protective passports, which gave the impression that Jewish holders were on their way to Sweden under the protection of the royal Crown. He also housed the Jews in "safe houses" flying the Swedish flag. He personally went to collection points and convinced the Nazi authorities in perfect German that the Jews who were about to be deported had to be released to his custody. He moved fearlessly with determination at great personal risk. On January 17, 1945, Wallenberg and his driver were arrested by the Soviets never to be seen again. In December, 2000, the Russians finally admitted Wallenberg was wrongfully imprisoned. He is presumed dead.

Wannsee Conference

Meeting held at a villa in Wannsee, Germany, on January 20, 1942, to coordinate the implementation of the Final Solution. Chaired by Reinhard Heydrich and attended by

Adolf Eichman and many other civilian and military leaders, the meeting established the administrative apparatus for accomplishing Hitler's dream of a Europe free of Jews.

Weimar Republic

Germany's political structure following World War I. The Constitution called for an elected President, a Chancellor (Prime Minister) appointed by the President, a Cabinet of Ministers appointed by the Chancellor, and an elected house of representatives, i.e. Parliament, called the Reichstag. The governing powers rested with the Chancellor through the ministry, with the President retaining veto powers and performing ceremonial duties. The Reichstag provided more of an advisory role than an actual legislative one.

Yahrzeit

The anniversary of the death of a loved one. A candle is lit in memory of the departed and the prayer for the dead, the Kaddish, is recited.

Zyklon B

The commercial name for hydrogen cyanide, a poisonous gas used in the Euthanasia Program and at Auschwitz. The poison was produced by the firm DEGESCH, which was controlled by I. G. Farben. Zyklon B was delivered to the camps in the form of pellets in air-tight containers. When the pellets were exposed to the air they turned into a deadly gas that would asphyxiate victims within minutes.



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Types of Camp Prisoners

By Rabbi Charles H. Rosenzweig

Common Criminals

German criminals convicted usually of violent crimes, such as rape and murder. These criminals ran the Auschwitz concentration camp. Their sadistic dispositions were apparently the reason for their selection as camp leaders. These criminals were released upon serving their terms.

Foreign Workers

These workers provided necessary labor for Germany, which experienced manpower shortages as a result of the war. Some of these foreign workers volunteered to serve in these labor camps; others were involuntarily deported. They, in many instances, were freed after a certain period of time.

Jews

Jews rounded up and sent to camps. By early 1942 these camp prisoners became part of the "Final Solution." Some camps like Auschwitz, Majdanek, Treblinka, Sobibor, Belzec, Chelmno and others contained gas chambers. These gas chambers were built as efficient mass-murder machines for the explicit purpose of killing Jewish men, women, and children. Those Jews not immediately sent to the gas chambers were interned in the camps. All Jews were destined to be murdered and none were ever released.

Political Prisoners

Actual or perceived opponents of the German Nazi regime. In the majority of cases, their internment was for a specific period. They were released upon serving their sentence.

Prisoners of War

About 15,000 Soviet prisoners of war were murdered in Auschwitz. Many Soviet prisoners of war were incorporated into the German military brigades fighting against the Soviet Union. Prisoners of war were not released until the war ended.

“Social Misfits”

Male homosexuals and Gypsies. About 21,000 gypsies died or were gassed in Auschwitz. German homosexuals, while not gassed, were nevertheless kept in the camps indefinitely.



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THE RIGHTEOUS DURING THE HOLOCAUST

When non-Jews saw whole families of their Jewish neighbors, including women and children, being rounded up by the Nazis to be shipped to an undisclosed destination, what was their reaction? Most stayed indifferent, probably out of fear for their own well-being if they objected or interfered. Some even encouraged and participated in the roundup; however, a righteous few could not tolerate standing by and watching these gross injustices. Instead, they took clandestine action to counter Nazi brutalities. What these righteous individuals did was the ultimate in courage and humanitarianism.

Chiune Sugihara was the Japanese consul general in Lithuania when the Germans invaded Poland in September 1939. Hundreds of desperate Jewish families who had fled Poland lined up outside his office daily in the hope of receiving a transit visa that would permit them to go to Japan and subsequently to sanctuary in a Caribbean country. Sugihara, encouraged by his wife, found he could not ignore their pleas. Mrs. Sugihara said, "If we do nothing, then we are evil, too." Contrary to his government's instructions, Sugihara issued as many transit visas as he could before he was finally stopped by the Japanese government and transferred to another post. Over 6000 Jewish lives were saved by Sugihara's humanitarian effort.

In 1944 **Raoul Wallenberg** was a 32-year-old Swedish junior diplomat at the Swedish embassy in Budapest, Hungary, when Germany took control of the country and determined to round up all the Jews and send them to their death at Auschwitz. Wallenberg initiated and carried out a plan to provide Swedish passports to every Hungarian Jew possible. Wallenberg even managed to distribute safe conduct passes to Jews who were on a death march to Auschwitz and was able to rescue them by having Red Cross trucks pick them up and bring them back to safe houses in Budapest. Wallenberg, by his and heroic efforts, saved the lives of some 100,000 Jewish men, women and children. Unfortunately, when the Soviet army finally liberated Budapest in the spring of 1945, Wallenberg went off to meet the Soviet commander and was never heard from again.

In the **village of Le Chambon** in south-central France, there occurred events during the German occupation that demonstrated what righteous people could do. The people who lived in Le Chambon and in the surrounding fanning area were for the most part descendants of the 16th-century Huguenots, a minority Protestant sect whose members were persecuted by the Catholic majority. Deeply religious, the villagers would not acquiesce to any government decrees or laws they felt violated their Christian faith. When the collaborationist government in Vichy issued decrees that would mean the roundup and deportation of all Jewish men, women and children to death camps in the east, virtually all the villagers of Le Chambon offered sanctuary to any Jew who came to their doors. This meant sharing their living space and their limited food supplies. The Jewish children went to the school in Le Chambon and were never identified as different.

from the other school children. Periodically, the Vichy police came to the village to check for Jews to roundup. Each time, they went back empty-handed as righteous French citizens warned the village they were coming and all the Jews were sent out to surrounding farms to be hidden in barns and stables. This went on for four long years as the 5000 righteous villagers of Le Chambon gave sanctuary and the gift of life to some 5000 Jews, mostly women and children.

Invaded and occupied by Nazi Germany in 1940, the **Nation of Denmark** set a distinguished example of a righteous nation among all nations. Under the leadership of its king, Christian X., Denmark refused to cooperate with the Nazis. In September 1943, a righteous German government functionary leaked to Danish officials the information that the Nazis planned to roundup all Danish Jews. Danish officials quickly devised a way of escape. Under cover of darkness, the Danish Jews were loaded into fishing and other small boats and were taken across the Oresund Strait to neutral Sweden, where they stayed until Germany was defeated. At that time, there were 7906 Danish Jewish refugees in Sweden that included 1364 children less than 15 years of age.

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial Center in Israel, has recognized over 13,000 men and women as "Righteous Among the Nations." The honored righteous range from Polish farmers, who hid Jews in their cellars, attics and barns to Catholic nuns, who hid Jewish children at their convents. In all the German-occupied countries virtually all the righteous were ordinary people. Sad to say, most political and religious leaders collaborated or at least made no protests to the Nazis. Of course, Denmark was the prime exception to this. Also, it should be noted that it has recently come to light that in Bulgaria, the entire Orthodox Church made a policy decision to defend Bulgarian Jews and refused to hand the community over to the Nazis during the war.

We shall always remember the courage of thousands of Righteous Persons who risked their own lives that others might live.

The Kristallnacht Mosaic

K*ristallnacht*, November 9, 1938, the Night of Broken Glass, is represented by this mosaic. *Kristallnacht* is considered to be the turning point in German policy towards the Jews and the beginning of the Holocaust. Jews were attacked and killed in the streets, in their homes and at their places of work and worship. Approximately 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps. Those who resisted were shot.

During the nine months following *Kristallnacht*, 10,000 children were sent to England as part of a rescue mission. This rescue operation was named *The Kindertransport*. Most of the children on the transports never saw their parents or close relatives again. Their families perished or were murdered in the concentration camps. The design of this mosaic was inspired by a square of the *Kindertransport Memory Quilt* made by survivors of the *Kindertransport*.

Interpretation of symbols in the mosaic:

The **yellow star**, inscribed with the word “Jude” has become a symbol of Nazi persecution. The German government’s policy of forcing Jews to wear badges, and then confining all who wore them to ghettos was a tactic aimed at isolating the Jews. The **black triangles** intersecting the star represent the shattering of the windows. The different colors of glass-mirror in the background reflect the millions of shards and broken pieces. The image of the **shofar** in the top center represents the ram’s horn and relates to the biblical of Abraham and the sacrifice of his son, Isaac. The **pomegranate** in the upper right is one of the seven species in the land of Israel. Legend tells us that this fruit has 613 seeds representing the 613 *mitzvot*, Hebrew for ‘good deeds.’ The branches of the **menorah** are done in light purple and are seen in the bottom middle and right section of the mosaic. The menorah is used as the emblem for the state of Israel and is a symbol often found in Jewish art because it was a ritual object used in the ancient Temple. The **red urn** on the bottom left is significant because it is in this container that the Jews hid their Torah scrolls from the Roman conquerors. The **green vines** interwoven throughout the mosaic represent the land of Israel. The **bird** image is a reference to the story of Noah where the bird returns to the arc with the olive branch, a sign of peace. **November 9, 1938**, the date of *Kristallnacht*, the Night of Broken Glass, is found on the bottom of the mosaic in both English on the left and Hebrew on the right.

This mosaic was made by Family, Friends, and Holocaust Survivors under the guidance of artists Gail Rosenbloom Kaplan and Dani Katsir in honor of Bat Mitzvah of Eden Adler. Dedicated with love by Nancy, Jeffery, Mitchell, Eden and Jesse Adler, (November 2005, Cheshvan 5766).



THE PAPER CLIPS EXHIBIT

In 1998, eighth-grade students at Whitwell Middle School in Whitwell, Tennessee, began an after-school study of the Holocaust. The goal of this class was to teach students the importance of respecting cultural differences as well as understanding the effects of intolerance. The sheer enormity of the number 6,000,000 so overwhelmed the students that they approached their teachers, Sandra Roberts and David Smith, as well as Principal Linda M. Hooper asking if they could begin to collect something that would enable them to visualize what six million of anything might look like. It does, after all, present a stunning image!

The students decided to collect paper clips because they discovered that paper clips were invented by Norwegians and that Norwegians wore them on their lapels as a silent protest against Nazi occupation in World War II.

Before their project was completed, the Whitwell students collected thirty million clips, and the exhibit grew to become the “Children’s Holocaust Memorial,” replete with an authentic cattle car used by the Nazis to transport victims. The exhibit was officially dedicated in Whitwell in November, 2001. Today, students serve as docents for the Memorial there, but the entire community is actively involved in keeping the project alive. An award-winning book was produced detailing the Whitwell project as well as an Oscar-nominated documentary. Both the book and the film are usually in stock in the HMC museum shop.

When Michigan teacher Debbie Rohlfs of Mayville Community Schools learned of the Whitwell project in 2005, she mentioned it to her eighth-grade students who immediately began their own project, asking their parents for clips, writing letters to businesses and organizations around the country, and garnering local media attention.

Ms. Rohlfs said that “We’re trying to teach tolerance and cultural diversity, particularly important in this small community located in Michigan’s thumb region.” The school has made six trips to the HMC. Mayville students brought the first 148,000 paper clips to the HMC in December of 2005, their first visit to the Farmington Hills facility. Since then they have collected and added another fifty thousand paper clips to the exhibit. ■



MUSEUM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Mezuzah on the Doorposts in the Building

Jewish law proscribes that mezuzot (plural) containing parchment inscribed with verses from the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and 11:13-21, be affixed to doorposts of Jewish buildings. The mezuzot of the HMCZFC were designed and executed by Holocaust survivor, Martin Lowenberg, especially for the Center.

Why is G-d's name hyphenated?

Throughout the museum, you will find the name of G-d hyphenated. The Talmud, Tractate Makot, folio 22a, commenting on Deuteronomy 12:4, states that it is prohibited to erase any letter of the written name of G-d. However, if the name of G-d is not written out in full, we do not violate this prohibition whether the name is erased purposely or by accident. It should be noted that because the entire English name of G-d is not a prescribed Hebrew Biblical form of G-d's name, the prohibition does not apply. Though writing G-d's name in full in English is commonly practiced, it is not technically a prohibition of the Biblical commandment. Respectfully, G-d's full name is hyphenated in the Center.

What do the abbreviations B.C.E. and C.E. mean?

B.C.E. is the abbreviation for “**Before the Common Era.**”

C.E. is the abbreviation for “**Common Era.**”

These two terms relate to the civil calendar. The Jewish calendar begins with the year which marks the creation of the world. The current Jewish year is 5769 and corresponds to the 2008-2009 civil calendar.

Rema Synagogue and Bimah Verses

Moving beyond the **Time Line** into the **Museum of European Jewish Heritage**, you will immediately encounter a replica of the **Rema** (pronounced Re-mö) Synagogue founded in 1553 by Rabbi Moses Isserles, whose initials form the name, *Rema*. The synagogue of the Rema is located in Kazimierz, the Jewish quarter of Krakow, Poland and the adjoining cemetery where Rabbi Isserles is buried were in use for centuries. Before World War II, thousands of Polish Jews visited his grave each year on the anniversary (*yahrtzeit*) of his death. Even before his death in 1572, he was recognized as one of the great *Halakhic* scholars of all time. He is considered to be the “Maimonides of Polish Jewry.”

The Hebrew at the top of the *bimah* reads, “**This is the gate to G-d. Righteous people may enter.**”

The Hebrew on the three others sides (left, rear and right as you enter the Museum) reads:

(Left) “**The presence of G-d is before me always.**”

(Rear) “**Know before Whom you stand.**”

(Right) “**Open for me the gates of righteousness.**”

The Haggadah

In the same Museum, just to the right of the shtetl mural, is a large scale reproduction of a page from a 15th Century manuscript Haggadah found in the British Library. The Haggadah is a liturgical manual used at the festive Passover meal. The translation of the pictured wording is as follows:

“This is the bread of poverty which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let all who are hungry come and eat; all who are in want, come and celebrate the Passover. This year here, next year in the land of Israel. This year [slaves, next year free men.]”



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Frequently Asked Questions

Were all **concentration camp records** destroyed?

No. Many records may be found in the Berlin Document Center, the International Tracing Service in Arolsen, Germany, the archives of the individual concentration camps and the national archives of the country where the camp was located. Microfilm copies and published records of many camps are located in the Library Archive located on the second floor.

How do I trace my **relative who served** in World War II?

Contact the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Website address is www.archives.gov.

How do I **trace victims** of the Holocaust?

Fill out an application from the American Red Cross Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center. Forms may be downloaded, http://www.redcross.org/services/intl/holotracer/international_hwwII.pdf. Printed forms are available in the Library Archive located on the second floor.

To do your own research, check our 'Tracing Holocaust Survivors/Victims' Guide. A copy is on our website and in the Library Archive located on the second floor.

How do I **evaluate World War II memorabilia**?

Compare similar items on the internet or look in the Yellow Pages under 'Appraisers, 'Collectibles' or 'Antiques' to consult a specialist.

What should we do with Holocaust or World War II **memorabilia we don't want**?

Donate them to Holocaust museums.

How can I **interview a Holocaust survivor**?

The Holocaust Memorial Center regularly schedules Holocaust survivor speakers after a tour. Call our office to confirm date and time.

Check internet for interactive websites.

Listen to oral history videos. The Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus has oral history summaries online and full interviews are housed in the Library Archive.

How can I **get Holocaust photos**?

The Holocaust Memorial Center website contains links to sites where photographs are available under the 'Library, Web Research' portion.

Where can we get a Holocaust **exhibit** ?

The Association of Holocaust Organizations maintains a list of traveling exhibits available with relevant details and instructions, www.ahoinfo.org.

Where can we get **names to read** on Holocaust Remembrance Day?

Check the Holocaust Memorial Center website under Library Archive Web Research, 'Registers.'

Numerous printed sources are available in the Library Archive.

We suspect that **someone we know served in a concentration camp or is a Nazi**. What should we do?

Call the US Dept of Justice, Office of Special Investigations at 1-202-616-9931.

I was a victim of/or witnessed an **anti-Semitic incident**. Where should I report this?

Call your local police and/or the local office of the Anti-Defamation League, www.adl.org.



Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus Library Archive

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Sunday – Thursday: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
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Documentary videos loaned to educators

THE COLLECTION

The HMCZFC Library Archive is a non-circulating multilingual research collection open to the public. Its holdings document the history, background and impact of the Holocaust. Started in 1984 with a nucleolus of books donated by Mr. Philip Slomovitz, the library has grown to house more than 50,000 volumes, over 600 documentary video tapes, and 1100 memorial books. The Library Archive includes the following:

Archives
Artifacts
Audiovisual Documentaries
Books

Maps
Microforms
Oral Histories
Periodicals

Photographs
Postcards
Posters
Vertical Files

The collection specializes in the Holocaust, European Jewish history, Judeo-Christian relations and General Judaica. Pursuant to these three general subjects are strong holdings in the following areas:

Allied Response
Anti-Semitism
Art
Bibliography
Biography
Children
Concentration Camps
Curricula
Displaced Persons
Dissertations
European Jewish History
Genealogy

Geographical Finding Aids
Ghettos
Judeo-Christian Relations
Legislation
Liberation
Literature of the Holocaust
Medical Aspects
Memorial Books
Memorials & Museums
National Socialism
Newspapers & Periodicals
Personal Narratives

Propaganda
Psychological Studies
Refugees
Registers
Relief Organizations
Rescue Efforts
Resistance
Revisionism
Second Generation
U.S. Role
War Crime Trials
WWII Aftermath

Teaching the Holocaust
Annotated Listing of Sources Useful in Teaching the Holocaust

Epstein, Eric Joseph and Philip Rosen. *Dictionary of the Holocaust: Biography, Geography and Terminology*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1997.

Comprehensive listing of terms, people and organizations with brief description and source.

Goldberg, Esther, editor and compiler. *Holocaust Memoir Digest: Survivors' Published Memoirs with Study Guide and Maps*. Volumes 1-2. London, Portland, OR: Vallentine Mitchell, 2004.

Detailed analysis of published survivor memoirs. Highlights unique qualities of each experience, with subject specialties listed for each.

Riggs, Thomas, editor. *Reference Guide to Holocaust Literature*. Detroit: St. James Press, 2002.

Encyclopedic entries for Holocaust authors and their works with biographical sketches and background.

Roberts, Sarah editor. *Annotated Videography on the Holocaust and Related Subjects*. Bayside, New York: Holocaust Resource Center and Archives, 2003.

Alphabetic listing of Holocaust films with length, source, subject index, and suggested age for viewing

Shapiro, Robert Moses, editor. *Why Didn't the Press Shout?* New York: Yeshiva University in association with KTAV, 2003.

Country by country treatment of journalism during the Holocaust.

Steinfeldt, Irena. *How Was It Humanly Possible? A Study of Perpetrators and Bystanders during the Holocaust*. Jerusalem: Yad Vashem International School for Holocaust Studies and Beth Shalom Holocaust Memorial Centre, 2002. Text Volume and Pedagogical Guidebook.

Case studies of incidents are examined on the human level with insights as to how atrocities were committed and reactions of the victims and bystanders. Documentation, photographs, analyses are provided.

Totten, Samuel. *Holocaust Education: Issues and Approaches*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2002.

Totten, Samuel and Stephen Feinberg, editors. *Teaching and Studying the Holocaust*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2001.

Totten, Samuel, editor. *Teaching Holocaust Literature*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2001.

The three above mentioned works discuss the issues involved in presenting types of Holocaust materials to various age levels. Presents numerous practical and ideological considerations for instruction.

The World Reacts to the Holocaust. Edited by David S. Wyman; Charles H. Rosenzweig Project Director. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press and Holocaust Memorial Center, 1996.

Country by country scholarly treatment of the Holocaust with detailed history of what happened before, during and after. Extensive bibliographical references.



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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HOLOCAUST CURRICULA

1. Akiva Hebrew Day School, 9th Grade Class of 1980. *Lest We Forget*. 100p. Southfield, MI. Akiva Hebrew Day School, 1980.
2. Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District. *Holocaust Unit Grade 10*. 27 p. Merrick, N. Y. Bellmore-Merrick High School District, 1978.
3. Bolkosky, Dr. Sidney M., et al. *Life Unworthy of Life: A Holocaust Curriculum*. Book, 216 p. instructional unit with videotape, 318 p. Farmington Hills, MI. Center for the Study of the Child, 1987.
4. Cleveland Heights High School. *Times of the Holocaust*. 23 p. Cleveland Heights, OH. Cleveland Heights High School, 1976.
5. *Holocaust Curriculum for Jewish Schools* (series) Littell, Prof. Franklin H. *Unit on the Righteous Among the Nations*. 37 p. New York: American Association for Jewish Education, no dates.
Trunk, Dr. Isaiah. Unit on “*Armed Resistance*.” 16 p.
Wertheimer, Dr. Jack. *Unit on the Antecedents of Nazi Anti-Semitism*. 60 p.
Zuroff, Efraim. *Unit on the Uniqueness of the Holocaust*. 57 p.
6. Houston Commission for Jewish Education. *From Holocaust to Homeland*. 99 p. Houston, TX. Houston Commission for Jewish Education, 1983.
7. Kuperstein, Isaiah, et al. *Witness to the Holocaust*. Unpaged, ca. 200p. New York: CLAL Pub., 1986.
8. Littell, Marcia Sachs, ed. *Holocaust Education: A Resource Book for Teachers and Professional Leaders*.
9. L. A. Unified School District. *The Holocaust*. 67 p. Los Angeles: Los Angeles Unified School District, 1979. 112 p. New York: E. Mellen Press, c. 1985.
10. Mersand, Joseph, Ph. D. *Teacher’s Study Guide: Writings of the Nazi Holocaust*. 31 p. New York: Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith and Archdiocese of New York, no date. From series “Image of the Jew in Literature.”
11. Merti, Betty. *Understanding the Holocaust*. 295 p. Portland, ME. J. Weston Walch Pub., 1982.
12. Office of Social Studies, Baltimore City Public Schools. *The Holocaust*. 166 p. Baltimore, MD. Office of Social Studies, Baltimore City Public Schools, 1979.

These curricula are available for review in the Holocaust Memorial Center’s Library-Archive; open Sunday through Thursday, 9:30 A.M. – 3.30 P.M., Friday by appointment

The listing of these curricula does not constitute an endorsement of them.



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SELECTED BOOKS ON THE HOLOCAUST

1. *The Auschwitz Album*. New York. Random House. 1981.
2. Berenbaum, Michael. *The World Must Know*. Boston-Toronto-London. Little, Brown and Company, 1993.
3. Davidowicz, Lucy S. *The War Against the Jews*. New York. Holt, Rinehart and Wilson, 1975.
4. *The Courage to Care*. Edited by Carol Rittner and Sondra Meyers. New York-London. New York University Press, 1986.
5. *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*. Vols. 1-4. Edited by Israel Gutman. New York-London. Macmillan, 1990.
6. Feig, Konnilyn G. *Hitler 's Death Camps*. New York-London. Holmes & Meier, 1979.
7. Gilbert, Martin. *The Fate of the Jews in Nazi Europe*. London. George Rainbird Ltd. 1979.
8. Gilbert, Martin. *The Macmillan Atlas of the Holocaust*. New York. Macmillan Publishing Company, 1982.
9. *The Good Old Days*. Edited by Ernst Klee, et al. New York. Free Press, 1991.
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11. *The Jewish Catastrophe in Europe*. Edited by Judah Pilch. New York. American Association for Jewish Education, 1968.
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13. *The Pictorial History of the Holocaust*. Edited by Yitzhak Arad. New York-London. Macmillan Publishing Company, 1990.
14. Wyman, David S. *The Abandonment of the Jews*. New York. Pantheon Books, 1984.
15. Roth, John, Ph. D. *The Holocaust Chronicle*. Publications International Ltd., 2000
16. Goldhagen, Daniel Jonah, Prof. *Hitler's Willing Executioners*. Vintage Publishing, 1997.
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Who Was Who in the Holocaust

A Selection of Books Listing People and Terms

- Ailsby, Christopher. *SS: Roll of Infamy*. Osceola, WI: Motorbooks International Publishers & Wholesalers, 1997.
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- Brown, Daniel Patrick. *The Camp Women : the Female Auxiliaries Who Assisted the SS in Running the Nazi Concentration Camp System*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer military history; 2002.
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- Epstein, Eric Joseph and Rosen Philip. *Dictionary of the Holocaust : Biography, Geography and Terminology*. Westport: Greenwood Press; 1997.
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- Wistrich, Robert. *Who's Who in Nazi Germany*. New York: Bonanza Books, 1982.



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HOLOCAUST LITERATURE FOR YOUNG READERS

1. Bishop, Claire Huchet. *Twenty and Ten*, c1952, 1990.
2. Bunting Eve, *Terrible Things: An Allegory of the Holocaust*, c 1989
3. Drucker, Malka and Michael Halperin. *Jacob's Rescue: A Holocaust Story*, 1993.
4. Finkelstein, Norman H., *Remember Not to Forget: A Memoir of the Holocaust*, c 1985
5. Fluek, Toby Knobel. *Memories of My Life in a Polish Village 1930-1949*, 1990.
6. Greenfield, Howard. *The Hidden Children*, 1993.
7. Innocenti, Roberto. *Rose Blanche*, 1985.
8. Klein, Gerda Weissman. *Promise of a New Spring: The Holocaust and Renewal*, 1981.
9. Levitin, Sonia. *Journey to America*, c1970, 1987. *Silver Days*, c1989, 1992.
10. Levoy, Myron. *Alan and Naomi*, c1977, 1987.
11. Lowrey, Lois. *Number the Stars*, 1989.
12. Matas, Carol. *Daniel's Story*, 1993. *Kris' War.*, 1992. *Lisa's War*, 1991.
13. Morpurgo, Michael. *Waiting for Anya*, 1991.
14. Orlev, Uri. *The Island on Bird Street*, 1984.
15. Reiss, Johanna. *The Upstairs Room*, c1972, 1990. *The Journey Back*, c1976, 1987.
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19. Toll, Nelly S. *Behind a Hidden Childhood During World War Two*, 1993.
20. Wild, Margaret. *Let the Celebrations Begin*, 1991.
21. Yolen, Jane. *The Devil's Arithmetic*, c1988, 1990.
22. Zar Rose and Kimmel Eric A., *In the Mouth of the Wolf*, c 1983
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