

INTERNATIONAL

HOLOCAUST

REMEMBRANCE DAY



January 27

The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27—the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau—as International Holocaust Remembrance Day; The anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

A wide-angle, high-angle photograph of the United Nations General Assembly hall. The room is filled with delegates seated at desks arranged in a semi-circle. The walls are wood-paneled, and a large screen on the right displays the UN logo. The lighting is dim, with spotlights illuminating the stage area.

UN Resolution

November 1, 2005

On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

Remembering the Heroes and the Martyrs of the Holocaust



Understanding the Holocaust – who was involved, what role did they play ?

- Victims
- Perpetrators
- Collaborators
- Bystanders
- Righteous among the nations

The Righteous Among The Nations

Those who risked their lives or livelihood to
save the Jews.







Start from
1988 Go
back 50
years

1988 - 50 = **1938**





KRISTALLNACHT

November 1938



“Night of broken glass,” anti-Jewish riots broke out in areas under Nazi influence.

Violence was committed against Jewish people and property by the non-Jewish population.



Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked, Jewish buildings were demolished with sledgehammers.

1000 Synagogues burned



Over 1,000 Synagogues were burned and over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.

30 thousand Jews arrested



Early reporting estimated that 91 Jewish people were murdered during the attacks.

When deaths from post-arrest, maltreatment, and subsequent suicides are included, the death toll climbs into the hundreds. Additionally, 30,000 were arrested and incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps.

KRISTALLNACHT



No event in the history of German Jews between 1933 and 1945 was so widely reported as it was happening, and the accounts from the foreign journalists working in Germany sent shock waves around the world.

The Times wrote at the time: "No foreign propagandist bent upon blackening Germany before the world could outdo the tale of burnings and beatings, of blackguardly assaults on defenseless and innocent people, which disgraced that country yesterday."



Daniel Heiman was just shy of 12 years old when the Nazis broke into the building in Nuremburg where he lived with his family. They destroyed his aunt's home. They threw a neighbor out the window to his death. Heiman was born in Nuremburg to an assimilated Jewish family, many of whose members served as officers in the German army in World War I. His father Max and uncle Leopold, who lost his arm "for Kaiser and fatherland," were such officers.

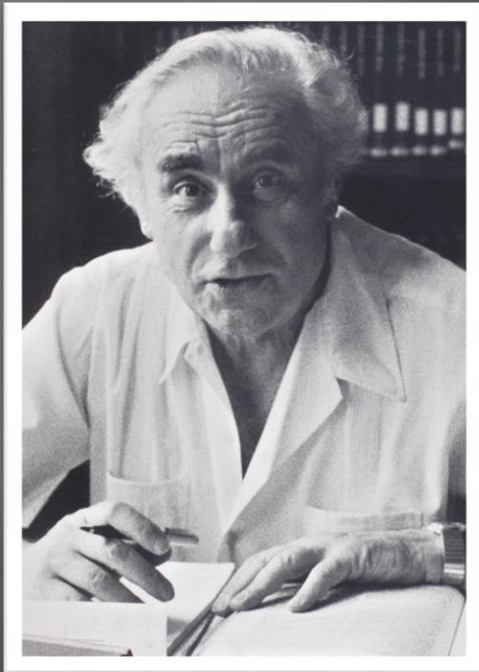
“for Kaiser and fatherland,”



Daniel Heiman, survivor, and witness to Kristallnacht at age 12

The heroic stories of the uncles who fought for Germany did not help them on the night between November 9 and 10, 1938 – Kristallnacht. The family had lived in Germany at least 200 years, and his maternal grandfather was a neighbor and frequent visitor of the mother of Heinrich Himmler, who became head of the SS and Gestapo. All Heiman’s uncles were arrested on Kristallnacht and taken to the Dachau concentration camp.

“Nazi blow hit from within,”



Survivor Zvi Bacharach, who was ten years old when the events of Kristallnacht unfolded in Germany.

That was the heart of the problem of German Jewry: It was so much a part of German society that the Nazi blow hit it from within. Until 1938 my parents never thought of leaving Germany.

"There's no way the Germans we live with will continue to do these things. It's only an episode." That was the atmosphere. It was also the atmosphere on Kristallnacht. They couldn't comprehend it. It came as a blow. I remember my mother standing pale and crying... I remember her phoning her Gentile friends – she had more Gentile friends than Jewish friends – No answer. No one answered her.

“Kristallnacht foreshadowed the extreme violence to come. There was no denying what was going to happen after Kristallnacht,”

Victoria Barnett Director; Ethics, Religion, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum



After Kristallnacht there was a marked increase in Jewish emigration from Germany as well as from Austria and the Czech areas of Czechoslovakia, which had been annexed to Germany in 1938 and early 1939.



No where
to go

The severe limits imposed by various countries on the absorption of Jewish refugees prevented more Jews from emigrating from Germany and other areas under German control.



“Don’t bother to bring your skis,”

Nicholas Winton, a London stockbroker in December 1938, had planned a ski vacation in Switzerland. He received a call from a friend Martin Blake who was aiding refugees in the Sudetenland, the western region of Czechoslovakia.

(recently annexed by Germany)

So, Nicholas cancelled his ski trip and goes to Prague to meet his friend.

“Don’t bother to bring your skis,” Martin, advised in a phone call.

What Nicholas saw in Prague was large groups of refugees driven from their homes and business after Kristallnacht. People were living in fear and in make-shift camps . Their living conditions were truly appalling.



NAZI WAR AIMS

Revealed by Secret Nazi Map - circulated in 1937

GERMANY IN 1937

GRAB! GRAB!! GRAB!!!
THAT'S the Nazi Policy -

Ein Volk, ein Reich, ein Führer!

Größ-Deutschland 1935-1945

Deutschland, Deutschland über alles!

HERE'S THE EVIDENCE

A 1937 is a photograph of a map
 "Seized by the Nazis in 1937. Note
 the marked borders. Consider how the
 map was seized in Czechoslovakia
 see how the Germans acted in con-
 quering most of Europe, including
 Great Britain, by 1945. Consider how
 this plan was being carried out.

MARCH 1938 AUSTRIA taken
 OCT 1938 SUDETENLAND taken
 September 1938 CZECHOSLOVAKIA
 taken
 MARCH 1939 POLAND taken
 SEPT 1939 ROMANIA taken
 Now the policy of "Grab - Grab -
 Grab" is in the making.

War was inevitable, and escape, especially for children, seemed hopeless, given the restrictions against Jewish emigration in the West.

Kinder Transport



Britain, however, was an exception. In late 1938, it began a program, called Kinder transport, to admit unaccompanied Jewish children up to age 17, if they had a host family.

The British government demanded a 50 pound per child guarantee for a return ticket.

Stockbroker by day

But there was no comparable mass-rescue effort in Czechoslovakia. So Nicholas would have to create one. It would be a difficult and dangerous undertaking for this mild mannered stockbroker in London. He would be followed by Nazi agents, he would engage in bribes and forgery. He would have to raise large amounts of money. But Nicholas knew he had to act as he met so many desperate parents wanting to get their children to safety, even if it meant surrendering them to strangers in a foreign land.



Desperate Parents

As the rescue operation grew, it would receive attention from the Gestapo. Perilous confrontations were resolved with bribes. Eventually Nicholas and his associates registered more than 900 children out of a known group of 5000.

C.T. 1971/0 (24-5-41)

This document of identity is issued with the approval of His Majesty's Government of the United Kingdom to young persons to be admitted to the United Kingdom for educational purposes under the care of the Inter-Aid Committee for children.

THIS DOCUMENT REQUIRES NO VISA.

PERSONAL PARTICULARS.


Name FLRISCHMANN EVA


Sex FEMALE Date of Birth 31.12.35.


Place POLICKA

Full Names and Address of Parents
FLRISCHMANN Rudolf a Serna
4, Plesseka
PRAG

**BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN
IN PRAGUE.**







Prag, den 27. Juli 1939

**Oberlandesamt
Poststelle.** *fall*

(Unterschiedsamt)



Nicholas and a group of volunteers, including his mother, called themselves the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia, Children's Section, and enlisted aid from the Refugee Children's Movement. They had photos of the children printed and appealed for funds and foster homes in newspaper ads and Church and Synagogue bulletins.

Mrs. Winton

Nicholas Winton's mother Barbara is seen answering phones in her son's London office. Mrs. Winton took on such a major role in the rescue missions that many of the thank you letters in the scrapbook are specifically addressed to "Mrs. Winton."



Doing all that was necessary



Hundreds of families volunteered to take children, and money trickled in from donors — not enough to cover all the costs, but Nicholas made up the difference himself.



The **Home Office** (HO), also known as the Home Department, is a ministerial department of the Government of the **United Kingdom**, responsible for immigration, .

Nicholas appealed to the British Home Office for entry visas, but the response was slow and time was short. “This was a few months before the war broke out,” he recalled. “So we forged the Home Office entry permits.”

The Criminal Rat



In Prague, Nicholas's associates contacted the chief of the Gestapo, Karl Bömelburg, whom they referred to as "the criminal rat" and arranged for forged transit papers and bribes to be passed to key Nazis and Czech railway officials, who threatened to halt trains or seize the children unless they were paid off.



Saying goodbye to your children

Moneys were need not just to move the children but to cover expenses for children whose parents had been arrested and shot or had fled into hiding. Many of the Czech families sold their possessions to pay for their children's escape.

On March 14, 1939, it all came together. Hours before Hitler dismembered the Czech provinces of Bohemia and Moravia as a German "Protectorate," the first 20 children left Prague on a train. Survivors told of heart breaking scenes on the station platform in the final moments before departure as children sobbed and pleaded not to be sent away and parents faced giving up their children.





The journey to safety

Nicholas and his colleagues later arranged for eight more trains to get the rest of the children out, crossing the Third Reich through Nuremberg and Cologne to the Hook of Holland, then across the North Sea by boat to Harwich, Essex, and on by British rail to the Liverpool Street Station in London. There, he and the host families met the children.



Hitler invades Poland

But only seven of the eight trains made it through, the last in early August, bringing the total rescued to 669. About 250 children, the largest group, were on board the last train out, on Sept. 1, 1939. On that day, however, Hitler invaded Poland, all borders controlled by Germany were closed and Mr. Winton's rescue efforts came to an end.



Children lost

“Within hours of the announcement, the train disappeared,” he recalled. “None of the 250 children aboard was ever seen again.” All were believed to have perished in concentration camps.



Looking for my family

Nearly all the saved children were orphans by war's end, their parents killed at Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen or Theresienstadt. After the war, many remained in Britain, but a few others returned to Czechoslovakia, and others would eventually make it to their ancient homeland of Israel.



Enlisting in the war effort

With the outbreak of war, Nicholas put his scrapbook away and became an ambulance driver in Normandy and was evacuated at Dunkirk.

Nicholas then joined the RAF.

Nicholas and Grete

After the war, he worked for the International Bank in Paris, distributing loans to the war-ravaged countries of Europe, and it was there that he met his Danish wife Grete, who was a secretary at the bank. The couple had three children, one of whom died in childhood.





It was only after Nicholas wife Grete found a scrapbook in the attic of their home in 1988 (a dusty record of names, pictures and documents) that, he spoke of his all-but-forgotten effort to save children who were destined for Nazi concentrations camps and extermination.

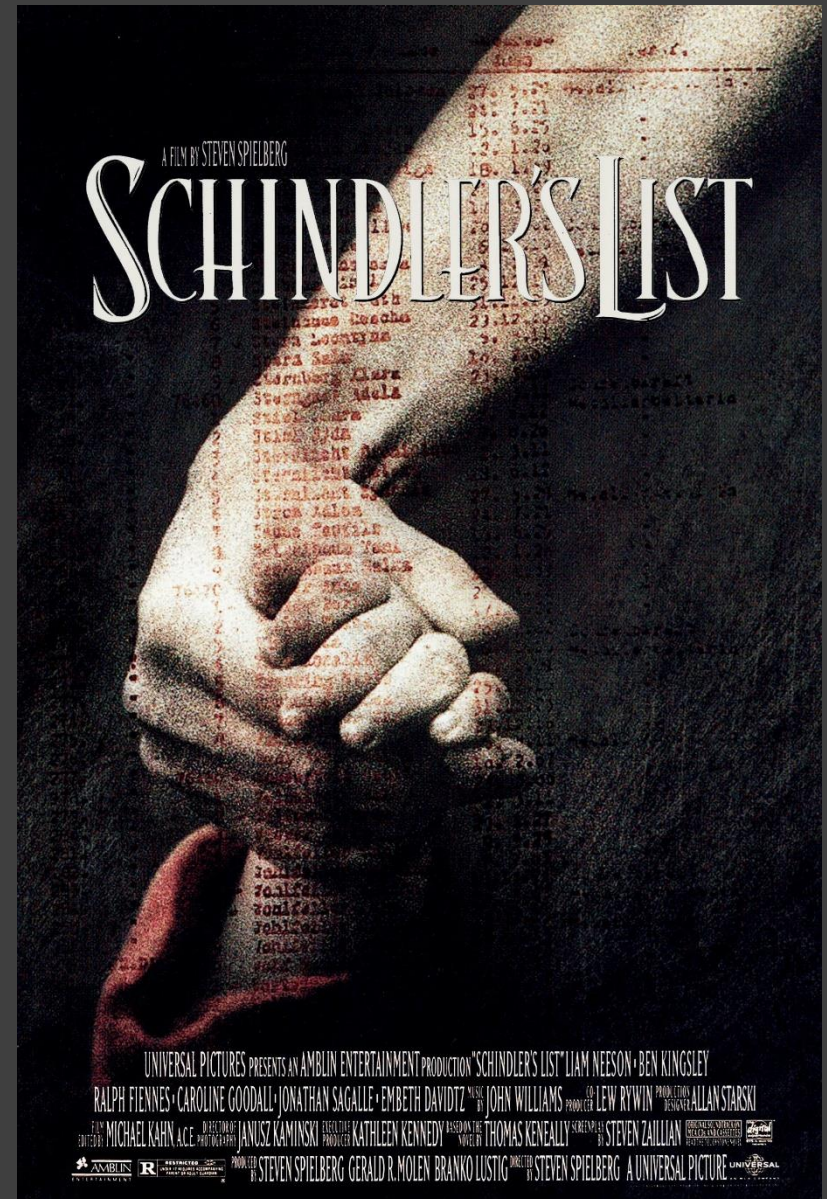


Righteous Among the Nations

Nicholas Winton was a reluctant hero, and has often been compared to Oscar Schindler, the ethnic German who saved 1,200 Jews by employing them in his enamelware and munitions factories in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Oskar Schindler

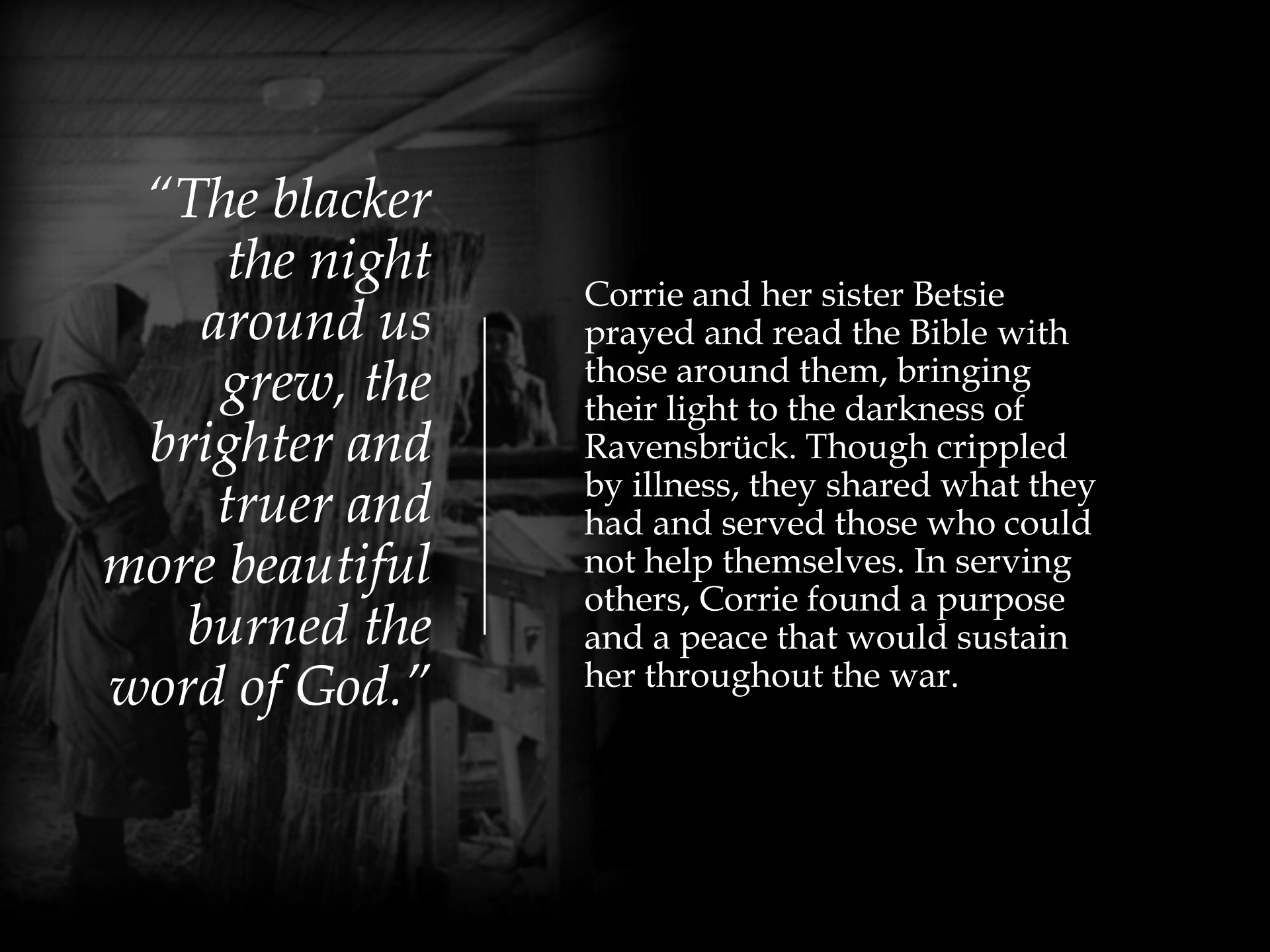
Oskar Schindler was a German industrialist, former member of the Nazi Party and possibly the most famous "Righteous Gentile" who is credited with saving as many as 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust. His story was brought to international acclaim by the 1982 novel *Schindler's Ark* and the 1993 film, *Schindler's List*





Corrie ten Boom

For her efforts to hide Jews from arrest and deportation during the German occupation of the Netherlands, Corrie ten Boom (1892-1983) received recognition from the Yad Vashem Remembrance Authority as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations" In resisting Nazi persecution, ten Boom acted in concert with her religious beliefs, her family experience, and the Dutch resistance. Her defiance led to imprisonment, internment in a concentration camp, and loss of family members who died from maltreatment while in German custody.



*“The blacker
the night
around us
grew, the
brighter and
truer and
more beautiful
burned the
word of God.”*

Corrie and her sister Betsie prayed and read the Bible with those around them, bringing their light to the darkness of Ravensbrück. Though crippled by illness, they shared what they had and served those who could not help themselves. In serving others, Corrie found a purpose and a peace that would sustain her throughout the war.



I am my
brother's keeper

The righteous among the nations
are memorialized on The Mount
of Remembrance in Jerusalem

Yad Vashem

- A memorial and a name
- From the prophet Isaiah (56:5) "To them I will give within my temple and its walls a **memorial and a name**"
- Created by an act of Knesset in 1953 for the purpose of Shoah commemoration preservation and education
- World Holocaust Memorial and Education Center



We should remember the heroes of the Holocaust. Their courage and their faith inspire us today .



Movie of Nicholas

What would you do ?

- Do we have the courage to do what is right?
- When Jews showed up on your doorstep, would you have helped?
- Will we speak up today about religious persecution?

“We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. Sometimes we must interfere. When human lives are endangered, when human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant. Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe.”

Elie Wiesel, The Night Trilogy



Why is it important we never forget

-
- Seeing the antipathy toward the Jewish state
 - Seeing anti-Semitism rise to levels not seen since the days before the Shoah
 - Holocaust diminished or denied outright
 - Witnesses passing away (Covid)
 - Yad Vashem needs support for educational efforts