Yom HaShoah v’haG’vurah
THE DAY OF REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST
AND THE BRAVERY
April 8, 2021, 8 p.m.
Ahavath Torah, Stoughton

Who Saved the Children?

Sponsored by

ADATH SHARON
B’NAI TIKVAH
TEMPLE CHAYAI SHALOM
TEMPLE SINAI

AHAVATH TORAH CONGREGATION
TEMPLE BETH DAVID OF THE SOUTH SHORE
TEMPLE ISRAEL OF SHARON
YOUNG ISRAEL OF SHARON
Shoah Commemoration Greetings & Opening Prayer
Rabbi Jonathan Hausman

Kindling of the Memorial Candles and corresponding readings: (Rabbi Hausman will light candles)

Candle One: Emma Hait, Ahavath Torah
The innocent world of Jewish children living in Germany changed when the Nazis came to power in 1933. From the very beginning, Jews and their children suffered at the hands of the Nazis. About 1 1/2 million Jewish children perished in the Holocaust. Every child, every baby was targeted in the attempt to annihilate the Jewish people. A whole generation was killed; only a few survived. In trying to save their children, parents often had to make the painful decision to part from them; other children were hidden after their parents were deported or killed.

Candle 2: Ella Frank, Adath Sharon
In the 1930’s, a series of Nazi laws were introduced, aimed at removing the civil and economic rights of Jews and other groups. These laws had a severe impact on the lives of children. One of the first laws that affected Jewish students was the law that restricted the number of Jewish children in schools, not to exceed 1.5% of the total number of students. Jewish children of war veterans and those with a non-Jewish parent were initially exempted. Jewish children were banned from many public spaces, and everyday activities like going to the park or going swimming were forbidden.

Candle 3: Andrew Raynus, Temple Sinai
After 1935, close friends suddenly avoided the company of their Jewish classmates. Jewish children in German classrooms were humiliated, as they were taught “biology” that designated them as racially inferior. On November 15, 1938, Jewish children were prohibited from attending German schools. On July 7, 1942, the segregated Jewish schools were closed. Between 1938 and 1940, the Kindertransport (Children’s Transport), brought nearly 10,000 refugee Jewish children (without their parents) to safety in Great Britain, with support from the British government. Jewish children were also hidden by non-Jews, including priests and nuns, nannies and other domestic help, and even Americans. Often nannies who, despite the danger, their young age, and their lack of education, took charge and assumed full responsibility for the Jewish families’ survival.

Candle 4: Josh Harris, B’nai Tikvah
Matylda Getter (Poland): Mother Matylda was head of the Franciscan Order “Mary’s Family” in Warsaw. She ran a number of children’s homes and orphanages, where she hid many Jewish children, orphans and abandoned, during the occupation. We do not know exactly how many Jewish children were saved by the institutions of “Mary’s Family”; various figures are given, including 250, 550, and 750. However we do know that about 40 Jewish girls found refuge in one branch alone; all 40 survived. Mother
Matylda was fond of saying that it was her duty to save those in trouble. Spurred on by her religious faith, she never demanded payment for her services, although some parents and relatives were able to pay for their children’s upkeep. Despite the fact that most of the children were baptized while in the institutions, they all reverted to Judaism after the liberation.

Candle 5: Leila Turet, Temple Chayai Shalom
Antonina Gordey (Belarus): Antonina Gordey worked as a nanny for the Ledvich family who lived in Minsk. On the day that the war broke out, Antonina Gordey took the children with her to stay with friends. She ultimately left them at a ghetto orphanage, continuing to visit them and bring them food. One day, she came to see the children, but couldn’t find 6-year old Rafail. Pupils at the orphanage told her that the Germans had been drawing blood samples from him, which caused his death. Fearful of also losing 3-year old Raya, Antonina brought the girl to her sister, where she stayed until the nanny found a place to live and a source of income. Their situation improved somewhat after Antonina married. She did not tell her husband the truth about the girl; he assumed that Raya was Antonina’s illegitimate child; Antonina did not deny that. After the liberation, the parents returned and found Raya safe and sound.

Candle 6: John Griffin, Temple Beth David
Lois Gunden (United States): Lois Gunden was a 26-year old French teacher from Indiana, who worked with the Mennonite Central Committee in southern France. She was sent to establish a children’s home on the seaside of the Mediterranean, which became a safe haven for Spanish refugee children, as well as for Jewish children smuggled out of the nearby internment camp of Rivesaltes. She was passionately determined to take the Jewish children out of Rivesaltes to protect them from harm. She made a special effort to integrate them with the other children; none of the other children were told that they were Jewish. Gunden was often called upon to show great courage, ingenuity, and intuition. In January 1943, she was detained by the Germans and released in 1944 in a prisoner exchange. She returned home to Indiana, married, continued teaching French, and ministered in the Mennonite Church.

Candle 7: Dov Klapper, Young Israel
Jane Haining (Scotland): Jane Haining was appointed matron of the Girls’ Home of the Scottish Mission in Budapest, Hungary, in 1932. She cared for around 400 mostly Jewish girls. In 1940, the Scottish missionaries were ordered to leave; Haining refused. In March 1944, the German army occupied Hungary and began deporting Jews. On April 25, 1944, two Gestapo men appeared at the Home, searched her office, and gave her 15 minutes to gather her belongings. She was deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. She wrote postcards to her friends; her last message asked for food. She ended her letter with the words: “There is not much to report here on the way to heaven.” She died of starvation in July 1944, at the age of 47.

Candle 8: Tovah Tolub, Temple Israel
Nicholas Winton (Great Britain): Nicholas Winton was born in London of German-Jewish parents. In December 1938, he was convinced by a friend involved in Jewish refugee work in Prague, Czechoslovakia, to travel with him. Arriving in Prague, he was horrified at the treatment of the Czech Jews and decided that he had to help them.
After Kristallnacht, the British government had extended the quota to allow child refugees into Britain; Winton was able to take children from Prague to Britain. He gave up his job to stay in Prague, in order to organize the rescue of Czech Jewish children. Between March and August 1939, he sent 8 train loads of children to safety in Britain. The last train, carrying 251 children, was due to leave Prague on September 1, 1939; it never left the station. The German army had invaded Poland and closed all borders. The children got off the train and returned to their parents; many were subsequently murdered in the Holocaust. Winton was responsible for saving the lives of 669 children; he never spoke of this episode and did not think of himself as a hero. It was only in 1988 that his wife found the documents that told the story; he told his wife to destroy them.

Community Candle Lighting  
(Invite attendees to light their own candle at home)

We Shall Never Forget: The Names of Loved Ones (invite each clergy or representative to read a list of names; ask others to type names into chat which will be read by Dina)

Rabbi Navah Levine, Adath Sharon  
Rabbi Jonathan Hausman, Ahavath Torah Congregation  
Rabbi Leonard Gordon & Cantor Joshua Grossman, B’hai Tikvah  
Rabbi David Winship & Cantor Maayan Harel, Temple Beth David of the South Shore  
Rabbi Kenneth Carr & Cantorial Soloist, David Rothberg, Temple Chayai Shalom  
Rabbi Ron Fish & Rabbi Rachel Silverman, Temple Israel  
Rabbi Joseph Meszler & Cantor Becky Khitrik, Temple Sinai  
Rabbi Noah Cheses, Young Israel

PARTICIPANTS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO TYPE NAMES IN CHAT

(Mention survivors who died of COVID- 2019 vs 2020?)

Memorial Prayer for the Six Million--??

El Malei Rahamim: Exalted Compassionate God,  
Grant perfect peace in Your sheltering Presence, among the holy and the pure,  
To the souls of all our dear ones: beloved men, women and children  
of the House of Israel, who were slaughtered and suffocated and burned to ashes.  
May their memory endure, inspiring truth and loyalty in our lives.  
May their souls thus be bound up in the bond of life.  
In their sheltering abode, may they only know peace.  
And let us say, Amen.

REFLECTION

Helayne Magier, Child of Survivor
Martyrology Kaddish (All rise)—2 RABBIS

Yitgadal
    Auschwitz
v'ytikdash
    Lodz
sh'meh raba
    Ponar
b'alma di v'ra khirletei,
    Babi Yar
v'amlikh makhutei
    Maidanek
b'haeyeikhon u-v'ymeikhon
    Birkenau
u-v'haeyei d'khol beit yisrael
    Kovno
ba-agala u-vi-z'man kariv,
    Janowska
v'imru amen.

Y'hei sh'mei raba m'vorakh l'alam u-l'amei almaya.

Yitbarakh v'yishtabah
    Theresienstadt
v'yitpa'ar v'ytromam
    Buchenwald
v'yitnasei v'yit-hadar
    Treblinka
v'yit'aleh v'yit-halah
    Vilna
sh'mei d'kudsha,
    Bergen Belsen
b'rikhu
    Mauthausen
l'ela min kol birkhato v'shirata,
    Dachau
tush b'hati v'nehemata
    Minsk
da-amiran b'alma
    Warsaw
v'imru amen.

Y'hei sh'lama raba min sh'maya
v'hayim aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen.

Oseh shalom bi-m'romay, hu ya'aseh shalom
aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'imru amen.
GOD BLESS AMERICA--??
God bless America, land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the ocean white with foam,
God Bless America, my home sweet home.

HATIKVAH--??
Kol od baleivav p’nima, Nefesh y’hudi homiya
Ul-fa-atei mizrach kadima, Ayin l’tsiyon tzofiyah
Od lo av’dah tikvateinu, Hatikva bat sh’not alpayim
Lih-yot am chofshi, b’artzeinu
Eretz Tziyon Virushalayim.

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2021 Yom HaShoah Committee Members

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