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Holocaust Remembrance Day/Days of Remembrance

January 27th was declared the International Holocaust Remembrance Day for it being the day Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated. Another notable day called Yom HaShoah in Hebrew meaning "Day of the Remembrance of the Holocaust and Heroism" is celebrated on the 27th day of the month of Nisan. Nisan is the first month on the Jewish Calendar which is March-April traditionally.

FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE SOCIALISTS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A SOCIALIST.

THEN THEY CAME FOR THE TRADE UNIONISTS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A TRADE UNIONIST.

THEN THEY CAME FOR THE JEWS, AND I DID NOT SPEAK OUT—
BECAUSE I WAS NOT A JEW.

THEN THEY CAME FOR ME—AND THERE WAS NO ONE LEFT TO SPEAK FOR ME.

MARTIN NIEMÖLLER (1892–1984), LUTHERAN MINISTER AND EARLY NAZI SUPPORTER
WHO WAS LATER IMPRISONED FOR OPPOSING HITLER'S REGIME

**ODEI Nugget: Tips for
Building an Effective Workplace**

Encourage ownership of one's path:

Leaders can encourage subordinates to take active responsibility of their past choices and explore future ones.

Articulate the organization's goals and philosophy: Demonstrate the importance of individual impact, and clearly state organizational objectives.

Promote civility: Encourage dignity and respect, and make a point to be present with subordinates.



Ways to Observe!

• In a 2024 Commemoration the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) hosted a special guest Tova Friedman who talks about surviving Auschwitz. Be sure to check out one of the 60 episodes on the "Stay Connected Live" link below:

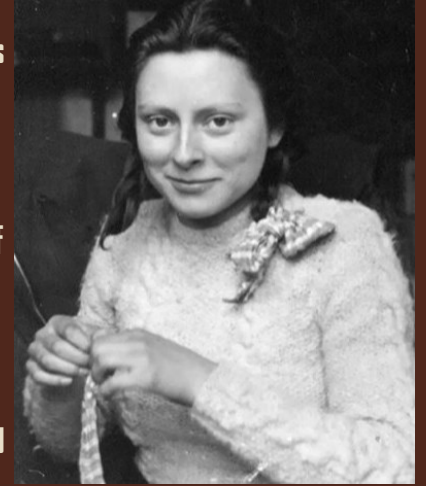
Stay Connected Live - YouTube

• Sunday, May 5, 2024 the Beth Shalom Synagogue-Columbia will be hosting a Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration at 5:00pm. Featuring guest speaker Dr. Alex Kor who will share his parent's stories of being Holocaust survivors.

Freddie & Truus Oversteegen



Freddie Oversteegen grew up in Haarlem, Netherlands with her older sister Truus. They first joined the Dutch resistance as armed assassins, Freddie being only 14. This Social activism was instilled in them by their mother who took in Jewish refugees. Because of their young appearance the officials overlooked their participation in the resistance. This resulted in them being recruited by the commander of the Haarlem Resistance Group. Their most notorious impact during this time was their ability to ambush, lure, or follow



their targets and eliminate them. In some instances, this was accomplished on their bicycles. Other duties included bringing refugees to hiding places, blowing up railways, and working in emergency hospitals. During this time, they joined forces with a young woman by the name of Hannie Schaft. They formed a sabotage and assassination cell. Just 3 weeks before the end of the war Hannie was arrested. After a failed initial shot by her executioner, Hannie's last words were. "I'm a better shot." Hiding in plain sight, these women stood up against blatant discrimination.

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Carl Lutz

Carl Lutz saved half of Budapest's Jewish population with diplomacy. Carl was born in Switzerland and later immigrated to the United States. There he became a diplomat serving at the Swiss Consulate in Palestine. He began his work with the Jewish Agency for Palestine. They assisted thousands of Jews, Ten Thousand of those being children, to leave Hungary with Swiss documentation. As things escalated with the Nazi party Carl continued to negotiate to get permission for

a certain number of Jews to flee Palestine. He was granted to issue 8,000 permission letters. To save as many Jews as possible Carl issued the permission letters to 8,000 families instead of individuals. In addition, Carl extended Swiss protection to 76 buildings that were used as a space of refugee for Jews. As if this wasn't enough, when the Arrow Cross arranged a death march to various concentration camps, Carl and his wife followed along. When the opportunity arose they'd pull people out of line issuing them protective documents, and helped them seek refuge.

Johan Van Hulst

Johan Van Hulst was a Dutch teacher known for the creative ways he smuggled and saved Jewish children. The year the Netherlands was invaded by Germany Johan became the deputy principal of a college in Amsterdam. Johan with the help of others turned the school into a shelter for Dutch teachers and a site of Nazi resistance. Across the street, the theater became a deportation site. Jewish children and their parents were forced to separate, leaving the children in a daycare center. In baskets, sacks and by bicycles Johan and his colleagues began smuggling the children to safety. They hid the children in the college until resistance fighters could come retrieve them and put them with host families. Johan and his colleagues helped around



1,000 children escape. Before the daycare center shut down, They knew that there are 80-100 children standing there, and you must decide which children to take. Johan says "You realize that you cannot possibly take all the children with you. You know for a fact that the children you leave behind are going to die. I took twelve with me. Later on I asked myself; Why not thirteen." Despite his heroism, he carried a guilt of not being able to save more.

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Virginia Hall

Virginia Hall was the most feared allied spy in World War II. Raised in Maryland she left and finished her college studies abroad. She became fluent in French, German, Italian and a little Russian. After being rejected from the foreign service first for being a woman, and then again for being an amputee she left her employment at the State Department in route to Paris. This is where her involvement began. First as an ambulance driver for the French army, then joining the Special Operations Executive (SOE). The SOE mission was part of espionage operations that used guerilla sabotage and subversion tactics against the Nazi forces. After being marked in her tenure with SOE, she signed up with the U.S. Office of Strategic Service (OSS), A precursor to the CIA. After the war she was awarded with the Distinguished Service Cross. She was the only woman in WWII to receive this award.



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