

National Days of Remembrance

VOICES OF RESCUE FROM THE HOLOCAUST

Profiles of Rescuers in the 2012 Theme Video

These biographies provide information about many of the rescuers shown in photographs included in the 2012 Days of Remembrance theme video, *Voices of Rescue from the Holocaust*. The rescuers are listed in the order in which they appear in the film.

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PROFILES OF RESCUERS



US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF LIDIA KLEINMAN SICIARZ

Father Czeslaw Baran

Poland, Franciscan monk

During World War II, Roman Catholic priests, nuns, and monks rescued Jews by hiding them in a widespread network of more than 900 church institutions across Poland, the only German-occupied country in which assistance to Jews was routinely punished by death. Several dozen Polish clergy were executed for helping Jews.

Despite the danger, Father Czeslaw Baran and his fellow Franciscan monks worked with the Sisters of Mary under the direction of their provincial superior, Matylda Getter, to hide Jewish children in the convent school in Kostowiec near Warsaw, where he was a teacher. The children were baptized for their protection, but after liberation, all were returned to the surviving Jewish community and to Judaism.

Marie-Josephe Dincq

Belgium, Homemaker

The sister of a Belgian priest, Marie-Josephe Dincq agreed to care for seven-month-old Marguerite-Rose Birnbaum when it became too dangerous for her to remain with her parents, who were hiding in the priest's abbey. Marie-Josephe and her husband, Pierre Dincq, took the child home to Arendonk and told neighbors that she was her godchild, the daughter of relatives.

Pierre was a member of the resistance until his capture and deportation to Dachau, where he died in May 1945. Even after her husband's arrest, Marie-Josephe and her three children continued to shelter Marguerite-Rose. In the summer of 1945, they returned her to her father, Lazarus. Together, father and daughter immigrated to Montreal, Canada.

In 1996, Yad Vashem honored Pierre and Marie-Josephe Dincq as Righteous Among the Nations.

Tol, Annie, Wilhelmina, Dewi, and Tol Johannes Madna

Indonesia

Born in Maos, Java, Tol Madna lived in The Hague, where his father opened an Indonesian restaurant. In September 1942, his former wife, Annie, was asked by her Jewish neighbor, Gitel Munzer, to help find a Dutch family with whom to hide her infant son, Alfred. Annie turned to her ex-husband. For the next three years, Alfred was raised as a member of the extended Madna family. Once, when German soldiers came to the house, Tol's son answered the door and feigned an inability to understand German; the soldiers eventually left without searching the house.

After surviving the war, Alfred's mother returned to claim her son, who did not remember her. To ease the child's transition back to his mother, the Madnas invited her to live with them for a time. The families remained in contact until Tol's death.

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF MARGUERITE BIRNBAUM



US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF ALFRED MUNZER



PROFILES OF RESCUERS



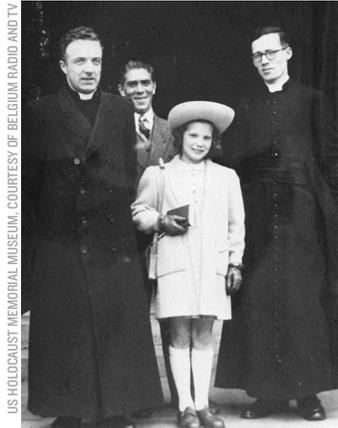
US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF HIROKI SUGIHARA

Chiune Sugihara Japan, Diplomat

In July 1940, a Jewish official approached Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul in Kaunas (Kovno) Lithuania, and informed him of the so-called “Curacao visas.” These documents allowed Jews who had them to claim Curacao or Surinam as their ultimate destination when applying for transit visas to pass through other countries.

Sugihara appealed to his superiors for permission to issue the necessary transit visas but was denied. He then decided to issue more than 2,000 visas on his own authority, disregarding the possible consequences to his career. At the end of the war, Sugihara and his family were held by the Soviets and then repatriated to Japan, where he was immediately dismissed from the foreign service.

In 1985, a year before his death, Chiune Sugihara was recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations.



US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF BELGIUM RADIO AND TV

Father Jan Bruylandis Belgium, Priest

Immediately after occupying Belgium in May 1940, the Germans instituted anti-Jewish laws and ordinances. They restricted the civil rights of Jews, confiscated their property and businesses, banned them from certain professions, and in 1942 required Jews to wear a yellow Star of David. Belgian Jews were also rounded up for forced labor.

There was considerable support in Belgium for resistance to the German occupation. The Belgian civilian administration refused to cooperate in deporting Jews, more than 25,000 of whom avoided deportation by hiding from the German authorities.

Father Jan Bruylandis was one of many Roman Catholic clergy in Belgium who hid Jews during the war. In 1978, Yad Vashem honored him as Righteous Among the Nations for hiding a Jewish girl.



US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF ANNA CHESZES

Tadeusz Strelczyk Poland, Laborer

When Pola Kaplan was three years old, her mother arranged for her to be smuggled out of the ghetto in Bialystok, Poland, by a Jewish electrician who was hiding on the Polish side. He took Pola to the home of his Polish brother-in-law, Tadeusz Strelczyk, who was married to a Jewish woman, Madzia Jozefowicz. The couple renamed the child Anna and raised her as their own.

In 1941, Tadeusz was sent to forced labor in Germany. He returned 22 months later and took Madzia and Anna to the village of Kowale, where he told curious neighbors that Anna had tuberculosis and needed to breathe fresh country air.

Neither of Anna’s parents survived the war, so she remained with Tadeusz and Madzia until 1967, when she immigrated to the United States.

In 1987, Yad Vashem honored Tadeusz Strelczyk as Righteous Among the Nations.

PROFILES OF RESCUERS

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF FLORIAN AND FELIX VAN BEEKS



Bertus Hornsveld

The Netherlands, Student

Bertus Hornsveld and his brother, Hank, urged their mother to take in two Jews, Flory and Felix van Beek, in June 1942. The couple had tried to flee Europe aboard the Dutch ship SS Simon Bolivar, which struck a German mine when crossing the North Sea. Both Flory and Felix survived the explosion and returned to the Netherlands to recover.

After Germany's invasion, Flory received a summons to report for forced labor. As she stood gazing into a canal contemplating suicide, a man on a bicycle approached her and told her to take off her yellow star and follow him. He took Flory and Felix to the first of three Christian families in Amersfort who hid them for the remainder of the war. The Hornsvelds were the second family who offered to help.

The van Beeks later immigrated to the United States and, after becoming citizens, sponsored the Hornsveld brothers' immigration to the United States.

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF RUDY APPEL



Juliette Usach

France, Children's home director

Born in Spain, Juliette Usach fled the civil war there and became the director of the La Guespy children's home in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France.

Heeding the preaching of their pastors, André Trocmé and Edouard Theis, residents of the town, including Juliette Usach, gave aid to the persecuted even at the risk of their own lives. Thousands of Jews and political refugees found shelter there during World War II. When the roundups began in August 1942, Jewish refugees were hidden and supplied with false identification papers, birth certificates, and ration cards. Groups of Jews also were taken by night across the border into Switzerland.

It is estimated that 5,000 refugees, including 3,500 Jews, were aided by the people of Le Chambon and the surrounding region. In 1990, Yad Vashem recognized her posthumously as Righteous Among the Nations.

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF LEOPOLD PAGE
PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION



Oskar Schindler

Poland and Czechoslovakia, Factory owner

Seeking opportunities as an entrepreneur, Oskar Schindler went to Krakow, Poland, soon after the German invasion. He established a factory that manufactured and distributed enameled kitchenware, employing mostly Jewish workers from the Krakow ghetto. The factory became a temporary haven for Jews seeking protection from deportation.

After the liquidation of the Krakow ghetto and the transfer of the survivors, including his enamel workers, to the Plaszow concentration camp, Schindler used his influence with German officials to set up a branch of the camp in his factory compound. He was able to bring some 900 Jews (the famous "Schindler's List") from Plaszow to his factory, where they were treated more humanely. He later transferred nearly 1,100 Jews to an armaments factory. All of "Schindler's Jews" survived the war.

In 1962, Yad Vashem recognized Schindler as Righteous Among the Nations.

PROFILES OF RESCUERS

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM
COURTESY OF JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS



Tatyana Kontsevich Ukraine, Homemaker

At Babi Yar, a ravine outside the Ukrainian capital Kiev, the German SS and local collaborators murdered more than 33,000 Jews over two days in September 1941. Some Ukrainian Jews, however, found shelter and protection with their neighbors.

During the German occupation of Ukraine, Tatyana Kontsevich and her daughter Ania sheltered the family of Shimon Redlich. Along with his mother, aunt, and uncle, Shimon hid in the attic and shed of the Kontsevich home in Berezhani. Ten year-old Ania was in charge of bringing the family food and water. On one occasion, when Ania was home alone, she succeeded in preventing two German soldiers from searching the attic hiding place.

Tatyana Kontsevich was recognized as Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1987. Ania received the same recognition in 1998.

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF RESCUERS: PORTRAITS
OF MORAL COURAGE IN THE HOLOCAUST



Aart and Johtje Vos The Netherlands, Artist and journalist

Beginning in 1942, Johtje Vos and her second husband, Aart, hid their Jewish friends and neighbors in their home in Laren. With the help of a policeman, who was a member of the same underground group to which the Voses belonged, the family acquired a telephone. When the policeman received advance notice of a raid, he called to alert them. Eventually, Aart and Johtje dug a tunnel into the woods behind their house to aid the Jewish occupants' escape during raids. Because Johtje's first husband was German, she received double food stamps, with which she fed her family and the hidden Jews.

In all, Aart and Johtje Vos saved the lives of 36 Jews. Yad Vashem recognized them as Righteous Among the Nations in 1982.

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF MARYSIA ROZENSZAJN DIVERZECKA



Lucyna Bialowarczuk Poland, Homemaker

In November 1943, two-year-old Marysia Rozenszajn was left alone in Tykocin, Poland, after her mother, Bella, was deported to Auschwitz. While wandering the streets, she was picked up by Lucyna and Waclaw Bialowarczuk, who immediately realized that she was an abandoned Jewish child. They took her in and cared for her for the rest of the war.

In April 1945, the Swedish diplomat Count Folke Bernadotte rescued Bella from Ravensbrück and took her to Sweden, where she recuperated. In February 1946, she returned to Tykocin to be reunited with her daughter.

Two years later, Bella was killed in a car accident in Warsaw, and Marysia was adopted by another family. Her wartime rescuers, Lucyna and Waclaw Bialowarczuk, were recognized by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations in 1990.



PROFILES OF RESCUERS

Tina Strobos and Marie Schotte

The Netherlands, Medical student and homemaker

Inspired by her grandmother's actions as a rescuer during World War I, Tina Strobos arranged for a carpenter to build a hiding place for two or three people in the attic of her six-bedroom house. The Jews stayed on the upper floors and had ready access to the attic hideaway when Tina or her mother, Marie Schotte, rang an alarm bell. Some Jews, including whole families, stayed in the house for as long as a year.

As the roundups intensified, the house became a way station where Jews stayed only briefly. Tina helped find places for them to hide with other Dutch families and provided food, ration cards, and false identity papers.

Despite eight raids by the Gestapo, Tina and her mother managed to hide over 100 Jews. In 1989, Yad Vashem recognized them as Righteous Among the Nations.



Anne and Paul Le Pages

France, Nanny and soldier

Rene Lichtman was born in 1937 in Paris, where his father, Jacob, worked as a tailor and his mother as a seamstress. Since both of his parents were working, Rene stayed from the age of six months with a nanny, Anne Le Page.

After the start of World War II, Jacob joined the French army and was killed in combat during the German invasion of France in 1940. As the situation of the Jews in Paris became more perilous, Anne and her husband, Paul, agreed to hide Rene. His mother was hidden separately. Rene remained with the Le Page family until the end of the war.

In 1950, at the age of 12, Rene immigrated to the United States with his mother.



Marion Pritchard

The Netherlands, Social work student

In 1942, the director of the rehabilitation center where Marion Pritchard was working asked her to take home a two-year-old Jewish boy whose parents were about to be deported. She kept him for several months until she found him safe shelter outside the city.

Later that year, she was so shocked by a deportation action she witnessed at a children's home that she decided to devote herself to rescue work. Among the many Jews she sheltered were Freddie Polak and his three children, Tom, Lex, and Erica. One night in 1943, after a police raid on the house, she shot and killed a policeman who returned alone when the children were not in hiding. Neighbors helped her remove the body.

After liberation, Marion worked as a social worker for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to help reunite parents and children. In 1983, Yad Vashem recognized her as Righteous Among the Nations.

PROFILES OF RESCUERS



US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF GAVRA-MANDIL

Refik Veseli Albania, Student

When the German army invaded Yugoslavia in April 1941, Moshe Mandil and his family fled into Albania, where Moshe found work in a photography studio. There he met Refik Veseli, a 16-year-old student and photography apprentice, who took the Mandils to his parents' house in the Muslim village of Krujë.

While Moshe's children, Gavra and Irena, lived openly as Muslim villagers, Moshe and his wife, Gabriela, remained hidden in a small room above the Veselis' barn. The family survived the bombing of the village and the intensive searches conducted in the area.

After the war, the Mandils returned to Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, and reopened their photography shop. Refik lived with them and continued his apprenticeship until the family emigrated to Israel.

In 1987, Yad Vashem recognized Vesel and Fatima Veseli and their children Refik, Hamid, and Xhemal as Righteous Among the Nations, the first Albanians to be so recognized.



US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF JACQUES FEIN

Marcel and Suzanne Bocahut France

Jacques Karpik and his sister, Annette, were placed with the family of Marcel and Suzanne Bocahut in Vers-Galant, near Paris, with the help of the French organization OSE (Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants). The children were baptized and lived as Catholics.

During their first year in hiding, their mother, Rozja, was able to visit them in secret until she was arrested while riding the Paris Metro. Their father, Szmul, had been deported to the French internment camp Pithiviers. Both Szmul and Rozja were transported to Auschwitz and murdered.

Jacques and Annette remained with the Bocahuts until 1946, when they were placed in OSE children's homes. In 1948, the two children left for the United States, where they were adopted by an American couple.



US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF COLETTE FLAKE-BUNZ

Henri, Simone, and Albertine Voisin France

Gabrielle Flake escaped the Vel d'Hiv roundup of July 1942 in Paris because a non-Jewish friend had warned her of it in advance. She took her daughter, Colette, to live with her cousin, who was married to a Frenchman.

Gabrielle and her husband, Maurice, were arrested in September 1942 and sent first to Drancy, then to Auschwitz, from which they never returned. Colette's older sister, Suzanne, arranged for a Christian woman, Marie-Therese Maunier, to keep Colette, whom she visited each Sunday until her arrest in 1944. Suzanne was deported to Auschwitz and murdered.

Soon afterwards, Marie-Therese became ill, so Colette was moved to the home of Henri and Simone Voisin. Henri's mother, Albertine, also lived with them. Colette remained with the Voisins until she immigrated to the United States five years later.

PROFILES OF RESCUERS

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM,
COURTESY OF JOSEPH FISERA



Julie Hermanova

Czechoslovakia, Nursery school teacher

Julie Hermanova, a Czech Jew with many years of experience caring for small children, worked at Le Roseval, a nursery for refugee children including Jews, in Vence, France. The nursery was attached to a school run by MACE (Maison d'Accueil Chrétienne pour les Enfants).

The founder of this Protestant relief organization, Joseph Fisera, was instrumental in securing the release of Jewish children from French internment camps, especially Rivesaltes. He sometimes succeeded in liberating entire families.

After the war, Fisera worked for the Protestant organization CIMADE (Comité Inter Mouvements Auprès des Évacués), where he was tasked with finding Jewish children who had been placed with non-Jewish families and, if their parents had survived, reuniting them. In 1986, Yad Vashem recognized him as Righteous Among the Nations.

US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM, COURTESY OF GENIEWIE TYRANGIEL-BENEZRA



Josef and Bronislawa Jaszczuk

Poland

Zegota (Council for Aid to Jews) was an underground organization of Poles and Jews that coordinated efforts to save Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland.

In October 1942, Josef and Bronislawa Jaszczuk, members of Zegota, took in Guta Tyrangiel, a two-year-old Jewish girl. Guta had been smuggled out of Kopernik, the concentration camp where her parents, Moshe and Rachel, were imprisoned. In response to inquiring neighbors, the Jaszczuks claimed Guta was their niece, but eventually they had to flee in fear of being denounced.

Guta lived with the couple until the end of the war, which neither Guta's parents nor her younger sister, Esther (who had been placed with another family), survived. Guta remained in Poland with her adoptive parents.



Father Bruno with his nephew. US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of courtesy of Michel Reynders.

Father Henri Reynders ("Father Bruno")

Belgium, Benedictine monk

In 1941, after his release from a POW camp, where he was serving as a military chaplain, Father Bruno established himself at Mont Cesar, a monastery near Louvain.

When the Nazis began to round up and deport the Jews of Belgium, Father Bruno, in conjunction with the CDJ (Le Comité de Défense des Juifs), organized an underground operation to provide shelter for Jewish children. He provided the children with ration cards and false identification papers and arranged financial support for their host families.

After the Gestapo staged a raid on the monastery in January 1944, Father Bruno continued to direct his operations clandestinely until the liberation of Belgium. He then helped reunite the children under his care with surviving parents. In 1964, Yad Vashem recognized Father Bruno as Righteous Among the Nations.