



Jerusalem Working Group

for Recognition of Leading Jewish Rescuers during the Shoah

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About us

During the darkest days of the Shoah, there were Jews and non-Jews from various countries who refused to put aside the torch of humanity and liberty, even as its light seemed all but extinguished. They were a remarkable group of rugged individuals, people of enormous talent, moral sense, dedication, courage and ability to innovate. They succeeded in snatching hundreds of thousand Jews from the Nazis', Fascists' and anti-semites' killing grounds in the face of intensive bureaucratic obstruction and indifference. History has largely failed to mark their deeds, thus, regrettably, important lessons from the tragedy of the Shoah were not learned. Holocaust centers world-wide have yet to provide appropriate recognition to major Jewish rescuers. Israel didn't name public places after them, issued no stamps and coins in their honor and most schools don't teach about them. The Jerusalem Working Group is determined to rectify this and is dedicated to realizing the honor and recognition that has so long been denied. We also believe that lessons learned from Holocaust era rescuers are critical, and that we are obliged to ask what **we** can do for today's burning problems and **do it**.

JWG members are academics, historians, Holocaust survivors, concerned people internationally, and families of Jews who, defying all risks, played a seminal role in the rescue of large numbers of Jews from many murderers in Europe's twentieth century dark age. JWG has no political affiliation and its members are volunteers from all walks of life, dedicated to the principle that justice delayed will no longer remain justice undone, that the brilliant beacons in the dark period of the Shoah will serve as role models for our time and that concerned individualism is a powerful positive force..

Members, Consultants and Honorary Members

Members: Dr. Becky Kook (Hillel Kook's daughter), Ben Olander (Sweden), Daniel Robbins, David Ben Reuven, Deák Gábor (Hungary), Prof. Ehud Duchovni, Prof. Gideon Doron, Hadassah and Clila Bau, Larry Pfeffer, Malka Robbins, Toby Willig, Werner Frank (USA), William Mehlman

Samson Krupnick z"l, passed away in 2009

Historical Consultants: Prof. David Wyman (USA)

Our other advisor and friend, Prof. David Kranzler z"l, passed away in late 2007

Honorary Members: Agnes Hirschi (Carl Lutz' daughter, Switzerland), Prof. Aharon Applefeld, Amnon Lord, Rb. David Rosen, Prof. David Wyman (USA), Enrico Mantello (George Mantello's son, Switzerland), Rb. Joe Wernik, Isi Liebler, Louise von Dardel (Raoul Wallenberg's niece, France), Rb. Jonathan Schonfeld (Rb. Solomon Schonfeld's son, UK), Dr./Rb. Norman Lamm (USA), Shuli Nathan, Prof. Xu Xin (Nanjing, China – Jewish Studies)

Alphabetic order by first name. Unless otherwise indicated members are in Israel

Logo design: Alexandre Simon (Switzerland)



Some of the major rescuers and rescue teams:

Monsignor Angelo Rotta, Papal Nuncio in Budapest

Aristides de Sousa Mendes - Portuguese diplomat who saved tens of thousands

Bratislava Working Group, principal members: *Rb Michael Ber Weissmandl* and *Gsi Fleischmann*, Andre Steiner, Rabbi Ármin Frieder, Oscar Neumann, Tibor Kovács, Willy Furst and others who helped: Emanuel Frieder, Julius Natali, Juraj Révész and Shlomo Stern

Carl Lutz, Swiss ambassador in Budapest

Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe (“Bergson Group”), some principal members: *Hillel Kook (Peter Bergson)*, Alex Hadani Rafaeli, Alex Wilf, Arie Ben-Eliezer, Arthur Szyk, Ben Hecht, Rb Ben Rabinowitz (Robbins), Eri Jabotinsky, Esther Untermeyer, Gabe Wechsler, Senator Guy Gillette, Harry Selden, Johan Smertenko, Konrad Bercovici, M. Berchin, Samuel Merlin, Sigrid Unset, Stella Adler, Congressman Will Rogers Jr., Yitzchak Ben-Ami.

Feng-Shan Ho, Chinese consul in Vienna

George Mantello (Mandel György), Hungarian Jew from Romania working for El Salvador consulate in Switzerland

Giorgio Perlasca, Acting Charge d’Affaires of the Budapest Spanish Legacy

Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomat in Budapest

Sempo “Chiune” Sugihara, Japanese consul in Lithuania

Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld, England

Va’ad Hatzalah in Switzerland, *Recha Sternbuch*, Itzhak Sternbuch and others

Young Zionist Rescue Activists in Budapest

(In alphabetic order by first name. Names of leaders of rescue groups are italicized)