

2020

YEAR IN REVIEW



Matilde and Carlota de Sousa Mendes, great-great-granddaughters of the hero



SOUSA MENDES FOUNDATION

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OUR MISSION

Founded in 2010, the Sousa Mendes Foundation is dedicated to honoring the memory of the Holocaust rescuer Aristides de Sousa Mendes and to educating the public about his action. It has a two-fold mission: raising funds for the restoration of the Sousa Mendes ancestral home “Casa do Passal” and the creation within its walls of a museum and memorial site, and sponsoring US-based projects that perpetuate his legacy.

IN MEMORIAM

In 2020, we sadly lost Stefan Rozenfeld, a Sousa Mendes visa recipient, the only child of Jenny and Adas Rozenfeld from Lodz, Poland and the father of Board member Leah Rozenfeld Sills. Other visa recipients we lost in 2020 include Laura Barbouth of Argentina and Baron Ludo de Vleeschauwer of Belgium. Attorney-activist Anne Treseder, founding member of our Advisory Council, was one of the prime-movers in the effort to have Aristides de Sousa Mendes recognized, among numerous other causes. May their memory be a blessing.



President's Message



Dr. Olivia Mattis

It has been a year of disruption, isolation, sadness and loss. We craved connection, distraction, and inspiration. Out of this need grew our **Sunday series of programs on rescue, resistance and hope**. We hope that these programs have brought some solace to our audience during this difficult time.

2020 was the 80th anniversary of the action of **Aristides de Sousa Mendes** to save all those lives in 1940. It was also the 10-year anniversary of the **Sousa Mendes Foundation**. The anniversary celebrations began with a large-scale exhibition at the **National Archives of Luxembourg** that was viewed by delegates of the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance** (IHRA) from around the world.

In June, our long-held project to name **a square in Jerusalem** for Aristides de Sousa Mendes finally came to pass, but without the hoped-for ceremony. This project was spearheaded by our Board member **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**. Also in Israel, **B'nai Brith International** awarded the **Jewish Rescuers Citation** to **Rabbi Chaim Kruger**, who assisted Aristides de Sousa Mendes in the rescue operation. His nomination was put forth by myself, on behalf of the **Sousa Mendes Foundation Board of Directors**.

In Portugal, the Parliament voted unanimously to induct Aristides de Sousa Mendes into the **National Pantheon**. The motion was proposed by Member of Parliament **Joacine Katar Moreira**. Also in Portugal, a new Chabad Center opened in Cascais, near Lisbon which includes a public garden named for Aristides de Sousa Mendes and Rabbi Chaim Kruger. It is located on a street which was renamed for Sousa Mendes on the same occasion. Board members **Mariana Abrantes de Sousa** and **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel** worked closely with **Rabbi Eli Rosenfeld** on these commemorations.



Sousa Mendes Square in Jerusalem, intersection of Israel Zangwill and Torah Va-Avodah streets



Rabbi Chaim Kruger and Consul Aristides de Sousa Mendes, 1940

At the Vatican, **Pope Francis** designated June 17th as the “Day of Conscience” in remembrance of Sousa Mendes. This action was the result of a petition from humanitarian activist **João Crisóstomo** of our Advisory Council.

In Berlin, a major artwork was created by sculptor **Werner Klotz**, commissioned by the Sousa Mendes Foundation with funding from a long list of donors including leadership gifts from the **Hartog family** and **Bloomberg Philanthropies**. This project was spearheaded by visa recipient descendants **Jennifer Hartog**, **Monique Rubens Krohn** and **Leah Rozenfeld Sills** (the latter two of whom are Board members) and **Gerald Mendes**, grandson of the hero.

Board member **Robert Jacobvitz** organized film screenings of **Disobedience: The Sousa Mendes Story** at the Tucson International Jewish Film Festival, the Stephen Wise Synagogue in Los Angeles and as part of our online Sunday series. He also conducted video interviews with visa recipients **Iva Wummer** and **Jeanne Padilha** and was an active member of our Educational Initiatives Committee.

The world's press took notice of the anniversary, with major stories in *The New York Times*, the BBC, *Der Spiegel*, the Vatican News, and elsewhere.

We look forward to returning to a more normal world – one in which we can congregate and celebrate together! In the meantime, see you on Sundays!

Olivia

Stories of Rescue, Resistance and Hope

2020 SPEAKERS

“The programs that you have offered have been above and beyond anything I have attended before. Not only are the subjects fascinating, but the speakers are extraordinary.”



Sheila Abranches-Pierce



Dr. Eliyana Adler



Josh Aronson



Dr. Victoria Barnett



Dr. Michael Berenbaum



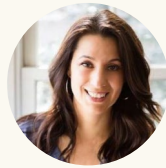
Louise Borden



Cantor Arianne Brown



Neely Bruce



Yvette Manassis Corporon



Donald Davis



Boaz Dvir



Abby Bingham Endicott



Ambassador Domingos Fezas-Vital



Dr. Rachel Fisher



Dr. Eva Fogelman



Abraham H. Foxman



Joanne Gilbert



Tyler Gildin



Cellin Gluck



Dr. Leo Goldberger



Amos Guiora



Joan Arnay Halperin



Ruth Hartz



Marlene Haus



Frédéric Hayat



Ed Hersh



Mark Hetfield



Manli Ho



Amélie Diamant Holmstrom



Dr. Natalia Indrimi



Dr. Annette Insdorf



Robert Jacobvitz



Artemis Joukowsky



Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff



Yael Katzir



Aviva Kempner

“Yours is a great organization! I am so impressed with how well it is run, and the events have been so educational.”



Patricia Kenner



Stephan Kirchgraber



Marvin Klemow



Ambassador Jakob Kumoch



Judy Kreith



Marion Finkels Kreith



Isabel Langsdorf



Yonathan Levy



Max Lewkowicz



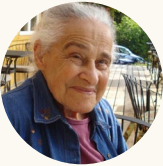
Shuni Lifshitz



Dr. Andrée Lotey



Dr. Michael Luick-Thrams



Dr. Lotte Lustig Marcus



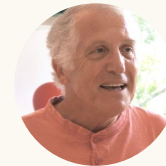
Samantha Massell



Dr. Noémi Perelman Mattis



Dr. Michael A. Meyer



André Miko



Zalmen Mlotek



Eric Moed



Edith Lichtenstein Morgan



Anne Nelson



Dr. Mordecai Paldiel



Semyon Pinkhasov



Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud



Jonathan J. Prinz



Felicia Rosshandler



Laura Seltzer-Duny



Yoav Shamir



Steven Skybell



Hanna Slome



Michael Spett



Lee Sterling



Pamela Sturhoofd



Robin Truesdale



Mimi Turque



Jessica van Tijn



Jean-Claude van Itallie



Elizabeth R. Varet



Carole Boston Weatherford



Dr. Blanche Wiesen-Cook

Thank you to our wonderful speakers!

Sousa Mendes Video Sculpture

Thanks to the very generous support of our donors, the **Aristides de Sousa Mendes Video Sculpture** is now built, and it is stunning! The artist, **Werner Klotz**, has created a unique multimedia sculpture, with thirteen different video screens showing snippets of what might have been going through **Aristides de Sousa Mendes'** tortured mind during those three fateful days when he finally decided to issue life-saving visas to anyone who asked. Accompanying the videos is the haunting music of composer and singer **Almut Kühne**. The music was composed especially for the sculpture.

The sculpture's creation completes the first phase of this project. The second phase, which we are now commencing, is to arrange for the sculpture and its accompanying materials to be exhibited throughout Europe and North America for the next few years.

To see the sculpture and learn more about it, go to: www.sousamendesfoundation.org/video-chandelier. Should you have any suggestions of sites and/or people you think we should contact, please don't hesitate to let us know.



Educational Initiatives

The Sousa Mendes Foundation's **Educational Initiatives Committee** recognized a team of 8th Grade students from the Bellevue School District in Washington who produced an outstanding 10-minute documentary on Aristides de Sousa Mendes for **National History Day**, a nationwide competition, working closely with Foundation Board member **Robert Jacobvitz**.

Joan Arney Halperin's book ***My Sister's Eyes: A Family Chronicle of Rescue and Loss During World War II***, with accompanying Curricular Unit, tells the story of one family's rescue by **Aristides de Sousa Mendes**. In February of 2020, this book was selected for inclusion in the "In Context: World History" section of the prestigious **Gale Primary Sources** platform, designed to support researchers and students as they study and interpret history. In June, Joan presented her story to teachers at **The Olga Lengyel Institute** (TOLI) Sacramento Satellite workshop. In November, she shared her story with college students at **Drew University**. For more information on this book and accompanying educational materials, please contact us.



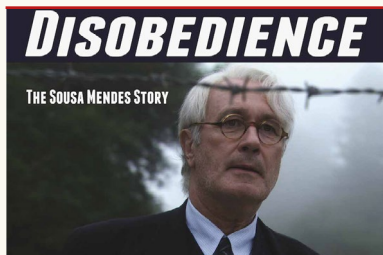
The Sousa Mendes Foundation was a key part of our research. The extensive online database provided us with an abundance of incredible first-hand accounts. We were awed and beyond eager to collaborate with the Foundation and extremely thankful we were given this incredible opportunity."

L-R: Ethan Schroeder, Sophia Bai, Antonia Kwan, Ava Chen, Daniel Choi



Stories of Rescue, Resistance and Hope

See the recordings at www.youtube.com/user/SousaMendesFdn/videos



APRIL 21 AND MAY 24 - DISOBEDIENCE: THE SOUSA MENDES STORY

This film tells the inspiring and moving story of **Aristides de Sousa Mendes** and his daring action to rescue thousands of refugees fleeing Nazi-occupied Europe in May and June of 1940. We held virtual screenings of this film followed by discussions with Sousa Mendes visa recipients. *"Save a life, save a world!"*

Speakers: **Robert Jacobvitz**, moderator | **Michael Spett**, Sousa Mendes visa recipient | **Jean-Claude van Itallie**, Sousa Mendes visa recipient



APRIL 24 - NOBODY WANTS US

In 1940, a ship called the **S.S. Quanza** left the port of Lisbon carrying several hundred Jewish refugees to freedom. Most of them held life-saving visas issued by **Aristides de Sousa Mendes**. But events went terribly wrong, and the passengers became trapped on the ship when no country would accept them. **Eleanor Roosevelt** herself stepped in to save the passengers on board, believing them to be "future patriotic Americans" rather than "undesirables" as labeled by the US State Department. The program was co-presented with the **Holocaust Teachers Institute, University of Miami**.

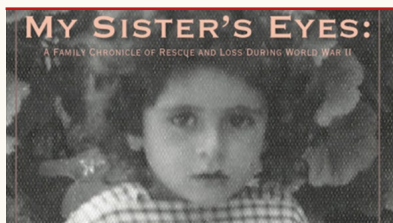
Speakers: **Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff**, moderator | **Laura Seltzer-Duny**, filmmaker | **Lee Sterling**, Sousa Mendes visa recipient whose uncle was a passenger on the Quanza



MAY 3 - PASSPORTS TO PARAGUAY

This film-and-discussion program highlighted a Holocaust rescue operation that is only now coming to light. Called the **Lados Group** and operating from Bern, Switzerland, this six-member team of Jewish and non-Jewish Polish rescuers issuing thousands of life-saving papers to Jews trapped in Nazi-occupied Poland and elsewhere.

Speakers: **Ambassador Jakub Kumoch** of Poland | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian



MAY 10 - MY SISTER'S EYES: A FAMILY CHRONICLE OF RESCUE AND LOSS DURING WORLD WAR II

This Mother's Day program featured a book discussion on the topics of love, loss, and survival. This is the story of a family of Sousa Mendes visa recipients who escaped Nazi-occupied Europe via Portugal and were sent to an evacuee camp on the island of Jamaica.

Speakers: **Joan Arnay Halperin**, author | **Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff**, interviewer



MAY 17 - PERSONA NON GRATA, THE STORY OF SUGIHARA

The Japanese diplomat **Chiune Sugihara** rescued Jews escaping from Lithuania in 1940 and was declared **Righteous Among the Nations** in 1984. Today he is a hero in his home country, and this film, made for a Japanese television audience, tells his story.

Speakers: **Cellin Gluck**, filmmaker | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian



MAY 31 - TRUUS' CHILDREN, THE STORY OF A DUTCH SUPERWOMAN WHO SAVED INNOCENT LIVES

We presented a sneak preview of the not-yet-released film **Truus' Children** about the life-saving action of the Dutch rescuer **Gertruuda ("Truus") Wijsmuller**. Her *chutzpah* brought her face to face with Adolf Eichmann, from whom she obtained permission in December of 1938 to save 600 Jewish children from Vienna. She was named **Righteous Among the Nations** in 1967, and yet her story is still barely known.

Speakers: **Isabel Langsdorf**, survivor rescued by Wijsmuller | **Pamela Sturhoofd**, filmmaker | **Jessica van Tijn**, filmmaker

Stories of Rescue, Resistance and Hope

See the recordings at www.youtube.com/user/SousaMendesFdn/videos



JUNE 7 - AHEAD OF TIME, THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF RUTH GRUBER

This prize-winning film documents the life of **Ruth Gruber** (1911-2016), an American photojournalist and writer who defied tradition in a career that spanned more than seven decades. *The New York Times* called her “a fearless chronicler of the Jewish struggle.” She escorted Holocaust refugees to America in 1944, covered the Nuremberg trials in 1946 and documented the Haganah ship Exodus in 1947. Her relationships with world leaders including **Eleanor Roosevelt**, **Harry Truman**, and **David Ben Gurion** gave her a front-row seat to history.

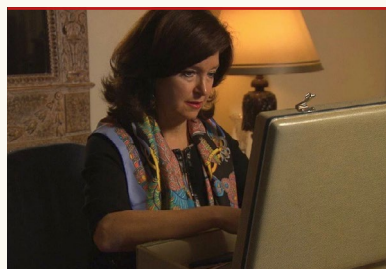
Speakers: **Patricia Kenner**, film producer | **Dr. Blanche Wiesen-Cook**, historian



JUNE 14 - NICKY'S FAMILY

Nicholas Winton organized the rescue of 669 children just before the outbreak of WWII as part of the Kindertransport project. Winton kept silent about his exploits until his wife uncovered a suitcase in the attic full of documents and transport plans fifty years later. The psychological effects on the child survivors and the parents who let them go were profound.

Speakers: **Dr. Eva Fogelman**, psychologist | **Dr. Annette Insdorf**, film historian



JUNE 21 - JACOB LOTENBERG AND THE GREEN SUITCASE

Dr. Andrée Lotey lost her father when she was five and was raised in Montreal by her French-Canadian mother. Her Polish-born father remained a mystery to her until after her mother's death, when by chance she uncovered a green suitcase in her mother's basement. On this Father's Day program, Andrée shared her process of discovery and self-discovery in this true-life genealogical detective story that led her to the Holocaust hero **Aristides de Sousa Mendes** and other momentous figures and events of history. *This program was a love letter to the father she barely knew.*

Speakers: **Robert Jacobvitz**, interviewer | **Dr. Andrée Lotey**, professor of French literature



JUNE 28 - THE POWER OF MUSIC

Music has the unique power to transport an individual outside of the here and now. **This event was a demonstration of that power.** We began by watching the Oscar-winning short documentary film *The Lady in Number 6 - Music Saved My Life* about the extraordinary life of concert pianist and Holocaust survivor **Alice Herz Sommer**. Then we were treated to a musical response to this tender and touching film.

Performers: **Cantor Arianne Brown**, soprano | **Neely Bruce**, composer and pianist | **Stephan Kirchgraber**, bass

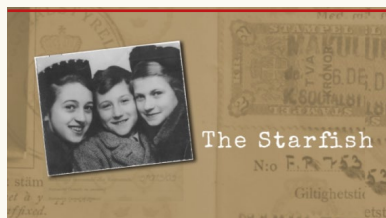
ORCHESTRA of EXILES



JULY 5 - ORCHESTRA OF EXILES

In the early 1930s, Hitler began firing Jewish musicians across Europe. Overcoming extraordinary obstacles, virtuoso violinist **Bronislaw Huberman** moved these great musicians to Palestine and formed a symphony that would become the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. *Orchestra of Exiles* tells the gripping true story of how Huberman, with courage, resourcefulness and an entourage of allies, saved nearly 1000 Jews and guaranteed the survival of Europe's musical heritage.

Speakers: **Josh Aronson**, filmmaker | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian



JULY 12 - THE STARFISH

This film tells the touching true story of a German-Jewish boy whose life was forever altered at the age of 10, when his parents sent him and his two older sisters to Sweden to escape Nazi persecution, with the aid of the **Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)**. HIAS has been in the news as the motive behind the attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.

Speakers: **Tyler Gildin**, filmmaker | **Marlene Haus**, Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh | **Mark Hetfield**, CEO of HIAS

Stories of Rescue, Resistance and Hope

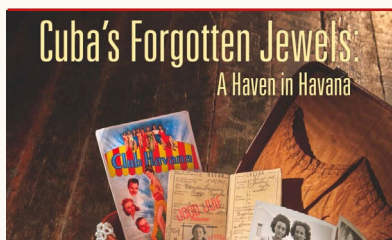
See the recordings at www.youtube.com/user/SousaMendesFdn/videos



JULY 19 - DIPLOMAT HEROES OF THE HOLOCAUST

This program was a birthday tribute to **Aristides de Sousa Mendes**, born on this date in 1885. It also celebrated the **10th anniversary** of the Sousa Mendes Foundation and the **80th anniversary** of Sousa Mendes's action. The program presented the inspiring stories of four diplomat rescuers: **Hiram Bingham** of the United States, **Georg Duckwitz** of Germany, **Carl Lutz** of Switzerland, and **Sousa Mendes** of Portugal. The program was co-presented with the **Carl Lutz Circle** and the **Holocaust Teachers Institute, University of Miami**.

Speakers: **Dr. Michael Berenbaum**, historian | **Abigail Bingham Endicott**, daughter of Hiram Bingham | **Ambassador Domingos Fezas-Vital** of Portugal | **Dr. Leo Goldenberg**, psychologist, rescued by Georg Duckwitz | **Frédéric Hayat**, Carl Lutz Circle | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian | **Ambassador Jacques Pitteloud** of Switzerland



JULY 26 - CUBA'S FORGOTTEN JEWELS

This documentary film was born of the tales that **Marion Kreith** told her daughter over the years. Marion escaped war-torn Europe as a young girl with her family, evading Nazi capture and crossing the Atlantic to a tropical paradise. In this film, her story mingles with the personal accounts of other refugees who recall their escape to Havana and the challenges they faced in an exotic and unfamiliar land.

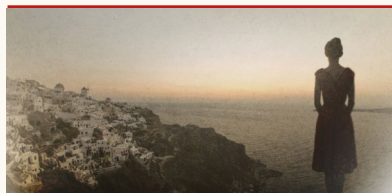
Speakers: **Judy Kreith**, filmmaker | **Marion Kreith**, Holocaust refugee who escaped to Cuba | **Robin Truesdale**, filmmaker



AUGUST 2 - DEFYING THE NAZIS - THE SHARPS' WAR

This award-winning PBS film is an account of a daring rescue mission that occurred on the precipice of World War II. It tells the dramatic true story of **Waitstill and Martha Sharp**, an American minister and his wife from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children in the care of their parish and boldly committed to a life-threatening mission in Europe. Over two dangerous years they helped to save scores of imperiled Jews fleeing Nazi occupation across Europe. In 2006, they were recognized by Yad Vashem as **Righteous Among the Nations**.

Speakers: **Amélie Diamant Holmstrom**, Holocaust refugee rescued by the Sharps | **Artemis Joukowsky**, filmmaker and grandson of the Sharps



AUGUST 9 - SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL HAPPENED

Emmy Award-winning writer, producer, and author **Yvette Manassis Corporon** scoured the globe to track down the Jewish family that her Greek Orthodox grandmother saved from the Holocaust in 1944. But suddenly, after a glorious reunion with the saved family, her own family fell victim to antisemitism in the U.S. The program was co-presented with the **Holocaust Teachers Institute, University of Miami**.

Speakers: **Yvette Manassis Corporon**, author | **Dr. Miriam Klein Kassenoff**, interviewer



AUGUST 16 - SHORES OF LIGHT

From Israeli director **Yael Katzir** comes a glorious and uplifting story of rebirth and renewal after the Holocaust. Filmed on location in Southern Italy, **Shores of Light** tells the unknown true story of thousands of survivors who ended up in the region of Salento en route to Palestine. Welcomed by the local population, which was economically poor but rich in human compassion, many of the refugees, married and had children before eventually moving on to their intended destination. It was a time of healing with the promise of **a future full of hope**.

Yael Katzir, filmmaker | **Shuni Lifshitz**, whose story is told in the film | **Dr. Natalia Indrimi**, historian, Centro Primo Levi | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian



Jewish children in Belgium at school
Nos Petits founded by Fela Perelman,
ca. 1941.

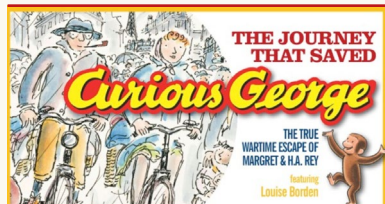
AUGUST 23 - HIDDEN CHILDREN AND THEIR RESCUERS

This program explored the history and psychology of hidden children and their rescuers during the Holocaust. We heard the poignant and dramatic first-person accounts of three formerly hidden children. The program was co-presented with **Descendants of Holocaust Survivors**.

Speakers: **Abraham H. Foxman**, Anti-Defamation League, hidden in Poland | **Ruth Kapp Hartz**, author and educator, hidden in France | **Dr. Noémi Perelman Mattis**, psychologist, hidden in Belgium

Stories of Rescue, Resistance and Hope

See the recordings at www.youtube.com/user/SousaMendesFdn/videos



AUGUST 30 - CURIOUS GEORGE – SAVED BY SOUSA MENDES!

Author-illustrators **Hans and Margret Rey** fled Nazi-occupied France on handmade bicycles with the manuscript to the first **Curious George** book among their meager possessions. Thanks to a fortuitous encounter with **Aristides de Sousa Mendes**, they were all saved.

Speakers: **Sheila Abranches-Pierce**, granddaughter of Aristides de Sousa Mendes | **Louise Borden**, author of *The Journey that Saved Curious George* | **Robert Jacobvitz**, moderator



WNET NEW YORK PUBLIC MEDIA
Dr. Feng Shan Ho, Holocaust rescuer

SEPTEMBER 6 - DESTINATION SHANGHAI

Dr. Feng Shan Ho was a Chinese diplomat stationed in Vienna during the time of Kristallnacht. Thanks to him, thousands of Jewish refugees were able to escape to Shanghai, where they found a safe haven. Feng Shan Ho was recognized in 2000 as **Righteous Among the Nations**. Together we watched a 20-minute preview of the new PBS film *Harbor from the Holocaust*. This program was co-presented with the **WNET Group, PBS Channel 13**.

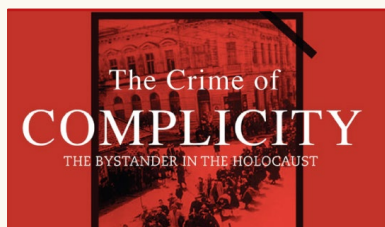
Speakers: **Ed Hersh**, WNET Group, PBS Channel 13 | **Manli Ho**, journalist, daughter of Feng Shan Ho | **Dr. Lotte Lustig Marcus**, Holocaust refugee who escaped to Shanghai | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian



SEPTEMBER 13 - WHAT MAKES A HERO?

Are some people born heroic and others not? Can ordinary people become heroes, and if so, under what circumstances? This program explored this fascinating topic. We watched **Yoav Shamir's** lighthearted yet earnest treatment of this important topic in his film, executive produced by **Michael Moore**, called **10% - What Makes a Hero?** The discussion that followed brought us closer to understanding the mystery of goodness.

Speakers: **Dr. Eva Fogelman**, psychologist | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian | **Yoav Shamir**, filmmaker



OCTOBER 18 - THE BYSTANDER'S CHOICE

If you are a bystander and witness a crime, should intervention to prevent that crime be a legal obligation? Or is moral responsibility enough? Following our prior program on **what makes a hero**, we examined **the dilemma of the bystander** and took a close look at the famous assertion by **Edmund Burke**: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

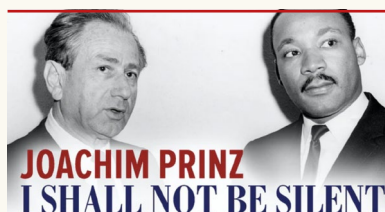
Speakers: **Dr. Victoria Barnett**, historian | **Amos Guiora**, law professor and activist | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian



OCTOBER 25 - ROSENWALD

Julius Rosenwald, the President of Sears, was a Jewish hero of African-American history. Rosenwald, imbued with the value of *tikkun olam*, saw parallels between the brutal persecutions of Jews in Eastern Europe and African-Americans in the Jim Crow South, and he could not stand idly by. His grandest project was to build more than 5,300 rural schools to educate black children in partnership with **Booker T. Washington**.

Speakers: **Aviva Kempner**, filmmaker | **Elizabeth R. Varet**, granddaughter of Julius Rosenwald | **Carole Boston Weatherford**, author of *Dear Mr. Rosenwald: The School that Hope Built*



NOVEMBER 1 - JOACHIM PRINZ – I SHALL NOT BE SILENT

In Berlin in the 1930's, the civil rights of Jews were systematically stripped away. A young rabbi refused to be silent. His name was **Joachim Prinz** and he set out to restore the self-esteem of his congregants. Expelled from Germany in 1937, Prinz arrived in the United States, where he witnessed racism against African Americans and realized that the American ideal was not a reality. Prinz became **a leader of the civil rights movement** and spoke at the **1963 March on Washington**, declaring, "Bigotry and hatred are not the most urgent problem. The most urgent, the most disgraceful, the most shameful and the most tragic problem is silence."

Speakers: **Dr. Rachel Fisher**, filmmaker | **Dr. Michael A. Meyer**, historian | **Jonathan Prinz**, son of Joachim Prinz

Stories of Rescue, Resistance and Hope

See the recordings at www.youtube.com/user/SousaMendesFdn/videos



NOVEMBER 8 - A WING AND A PRAYER

An American hero you never learned about in school! This film tells the remarkable yet little known story of **Al Schwimmer**, a TWA flight engineer who assembled a group of American pilots and others to rescue the newborn state of Israel. They succeeded in their secret and daring mission but were tried and convicted by the US government. This program was co-presented with the **Holocaust Education Initiative, Penn State University**.

"Al Schwimmer is the greatest gift America gave Israel." - David Ben-Gurion

Speakers: **Dr. Eliyana Adler**, historian | **Boaz Dvir**, filmmaker | **Marvin Klemow**, friend of Al Schwimmer



NOVEMBER 15 - DAS KIND

Winner of Best Film at the European Independent Film Festival in Paris, this documentary by French-Israeli filmmaker **Yonathan Levy** presents the story of **Irma Miko**, left, a concert pianist born in Czer-nowitz, who joined the French Resistance in Paris in 1941. Her impossibly dangerous mission was to convert occupying German soldiers to the cause of the French Resistance.

Speakers: **Yonathan Levy**, filmmaker | **André Miko**, son of Irma Miko | **Anne Nelson**, historian and author of *Suzanne's Children*



NOVEMBER 22 - SAFE HAVEN IN IOWA, AN UNTOLD STORY

Did you know that there were Jewish refugees in Iowa during World War II? This program presented the story of **Edith Lichtenstein Morgan**, originally from Limburg, Germany, who was brought by the Quakers to Iowa, where she lived in a converted schoolhouse called Scattergood Hostel as one of 185 Jewish refugees. We viewed a short film on this history called **Out of Hitler's Reach** produced by the **PBS station** in Iowa.

Speakers: **Donald Davis**, archivist of the American Friends Service Committee | **Dr. Michael Luick-Thrams**, historian | **Edith Lichtenstein Morgan**, Holocaust refugee who found a safe haven in Iowa



NOVEMBER 29 - SEARCHING FOR SOUSA MENDES

In June of 2013, a group of Sousa Mendes visa recipient families, along with members of the Sousa Mendes family, embarked on the Sousa Mendes Foundation's **Journey on the Road to Freedom**, retracing their families' footsteps. They were "searching for Sousa Mendes" – looking for traces and clues of a lost history in an effort to understand their personal pasts. Filmmaker **Semyon Pinkhasov** recorded the journey in **With God Against Man**.

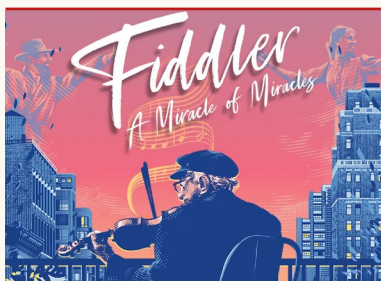
Speakers: **Joan Arnay Halperin**, moderator | **Eric Moed**, architect and designer | **Dr. Mordecai Paldiel**, historian | **Semyon Pinkhasov**, filmmaker



DECEMBER 6 - WOMEN OF VALOR – STORIES OF RESISTANCE IN PARIS

In February 1943, at the height of the deportations from France, a daring group of Jewish and Christian women banded together to stage the largest single rescue operation in wartime Paris. This book discussion program described these women – including **Suzanne Spaak**, **Sophie Schwartz**, **Frieda Wattenberg** and others – who risked everything to fight back against evil.

Speakers: **Joanne Gilbert**, author of *Women of Valor* series | **Anne Nelson**, author of *Suzanne's Children*



DECEMBER 13 - FIDDLER – A MIRACLE OF MIRACLES!

This Chanukah program with an all-star panel celebrated the triumph of the human spirit. **Steven Skybell** is the award-winning Tevye of the **Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish** production that recently took New York by storm, with musical direction by **Zalmen Mlotek**. **Samantha Massell** played Hodel in the recent Broadway revival, and **Mimi Turque** performed in the original Broadway cast. We watched **Max Lewkowicz's** dazzling **Fiddler – A Miracle of Miracles** and then spent an uplifting hour together. **Lechaim!**

Speakers: **Patricia Kenner**, film producer | **Max Lewkowicz**, filmmaker | **Samantha Massell**, actress | **Zalmen Mlotek**, musical director of *Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish* | **Steven Skybell**, actor | **Mimi Turque**, actress

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