

# THE RESCUERS

There were many people who knew what the Nazis were doing was wrong and risked their own safety to help their fellow human beings.

People from all corners of Europe and of diverse religious beliefs put their lives on the line to aid Jews. The spectrum of rescue initiatives spanned from solitary acts of bravery to both small and extensive organized systems.

Rescuers viewed Jews and other victims not as the enemy of the state, but as innocent human beings.

Generally, rescuers were able to accept people who were different than them. They also held the conviction that what one person did could make a difference.

Each rescue story is different, yet what rescuers had in common was a combination of awareness, resourcefulness, empathy, vigilance, inventiveness, courage, compassion, and persistence.

Individuals in every European country and from all religious backgrounds risked their lives to help Jews. Rescue efforts ranged from the isolated actions of individuals to organized networks both small and large.

Thousands survived the Holocaust because of the bravery of these rescuers.

***“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference.”***

*Elie Wiesel*  
*Holocaust survivor*



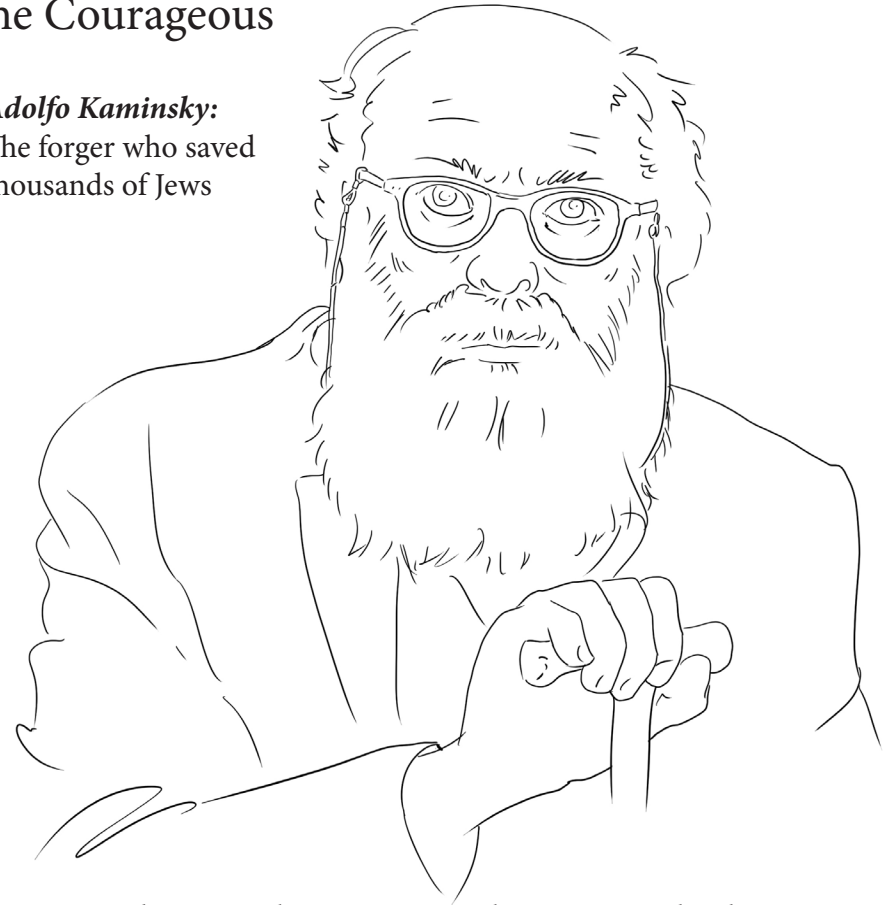
**CULTURAL  
AWARENESS**

# OBSERVANCE

Days of Remembrance May 5-12, 2024

## Behind Every Name A Story: The Courageous

***Adolfo Kaminsky:***  
The forger who saved  
thousands of Jews



Every year, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum guides the Nation in observing the ***Days of Remembrance.***

This occasion, established by the U.S. Congress, honors the six million Jewish victims and countless others who perished during the Holocaust. It also pays tribute to the brave liberators.

# WHAT WAS THE HOLOCAUST?

**Holocaust** is a word of Greek origin meaning “sacrifice by fire.”

The Holocaust was the organized, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators.

The Nazis came to power in Germany in January 1933. Nazis believed that they were racially superior to all people and that the Jews were inferior. Nazis also targeted other groups because of who they were, such as Roma (Gypsies), people with disabilities, and some of the Slavic peoples (Poles, Russians, and others). Other groups were persecuted on political, religious, and behavioral grounds.

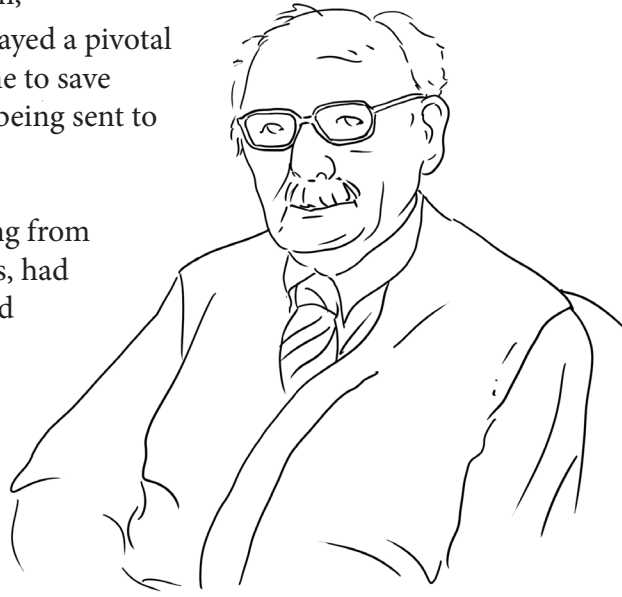


# PLANT SEEDS OF LOVE AND KINDNESS



In 1943, in Amsterdam, **Johan van Hulst** played a pivotal role in a daring scheme to save Jewish children from being sent to concentration camps.

These children, ranging from infants to 12-year-olds, had been forcibly separated from their parents at a deportation center. They were then brought by nursery workers to a nursery located next to the teachers' college where Mr. van Hulst served as the principal.



The rescue plan was both simple and risky: the children were secretly handed over a hedge that separated the nursery from the college. Once inside the college, they were hidden in a classroom until they could be smuggled to safety in the countryside by Dutch Resistance groups.

Johan van Hulst is credited with helping to rescue as many as 600 children through these carefully orchestrated operations.

Despite this heroic effort, he was haunted by the knowledge of what he could not accomplish. His courage and compassion remain an enduring testament to the resilience of the human spirit.



In 1944, **Adolfo Kaminsky** was an 18-year-old Jewish boy in Paris. He was also a member of the French Resistance running a secret lab creating forged documents for children and families who were about to be deported to concentration camps.

His lab created as many as 500 documents a week! They told their neighbors they were painters so they wouldn't question the chemical smells.

He is credited with saving the lives of more than 14,000 Jews. Most of those rescued were children.

He has spent his life helping others escape atrocities around the world.

*"All humans are equal, whatever their origins, their beliefs, their skin color. There are no superiors, no inferiors..."*

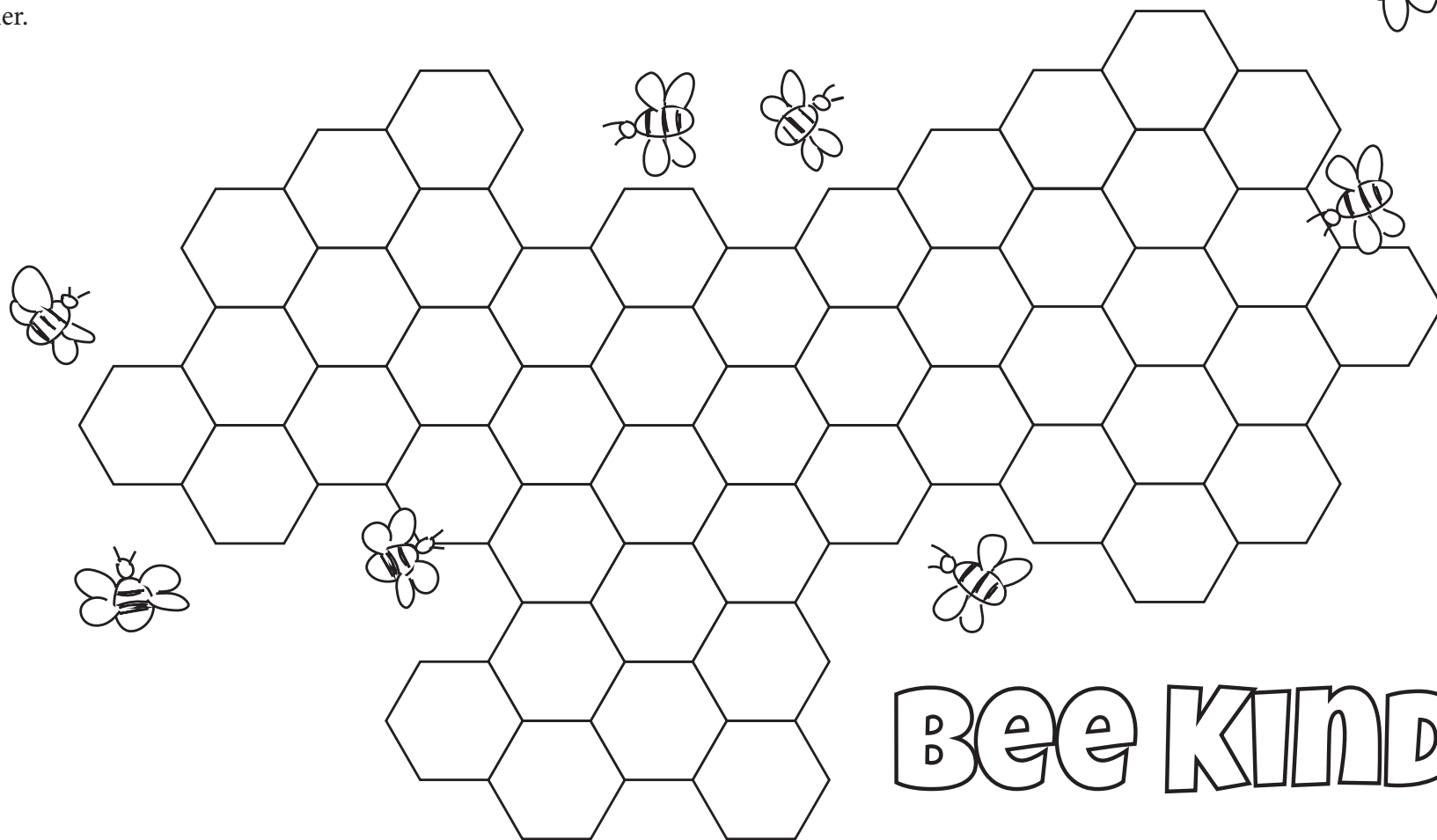
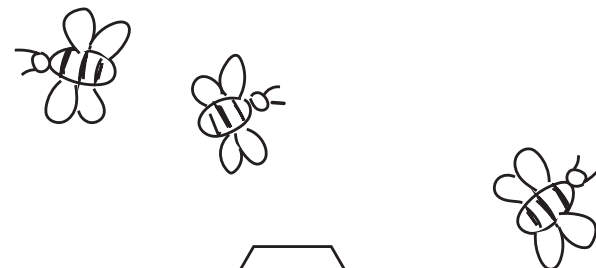


# ACTS OF KINDNESS TRACKER

*Color in one hexagon for each act of kindness.*

**Here are some ideas for you!**

Give a compliment. Support a small business. Ask someone if they need help. Tell someone why they are special to you. Hold a door open for someone. Volunteer your time. Donate gently used toys and books. Do a chore without being asked. Write a thank you letter. Pick up litter. Let someone go ahead of you in line. Check in on an elderly neighbor. Read a book to someone. Help make dinner.



## BEE KIND