

02.07.15

SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM MOURNS PASSING OF SIR NICHOLAS WINTON

The Sydney Jewish Museum joins communities around the world in mourning the passing of Sir Nicholas Winton, a British national who saved more than 650 Jewish Czech children from being transported to Nazi Concentration Camps.

The Museum itself has a small community of 'Kinder Kids' who tell their stories to visitors, including John Gruschka, a Holocaust Survivor from Czechoslovakia who was sent to England for safety on his fifteenth birthday.

Norman Seligman, Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Jewish Museum says "The death of Sir Nicholas Winton reminds us how important it is to reflect on the stories of compassion and humanity that come out of the Holocaust. Mr Winton was a man who saw people suffering and did not turn his back. It is a message we try to share with all Museum visitors."

While often compared to the likes of Oskar Schindler and Raoul Wallenberg, Winton was a reluctant hero, saying nothing about his rescue efforts for decades. It was only when Winton's wife discovered a dusty record of names, pictures and documents in the attic of their family home that his efforts to find foster carers, raise money and co-ordinate the mass rescue effort in Czechoslovakia truly came to light.

Janet Murker, Vice President of the Kindertransport Association in Australia said "The Association mourns the loss of a great humanitarian and innovator of the Kindertransport in Czechoslovakia. Mr Winton's actions gave life to hundreds of Kinderkids, many of whom called themselves 'Winton's Children'."

The Sydney Jewish Museum is dedicated to teaching the history of the Holocaust, reflecting on its contemporary relevance and the remembrance of its victims. Visitors are also afforded an opportunity to speak directly with Holocaust survivors and hear their personal histories through the Museums monthly 'Remember Me' talks. (held on the 3rd Sunday of each month).

Mr Seligman noted that "Seventy years since the liberation of the Concentration Camps in Europe, we urge people to come to the Museum, to hear the vital testimonies of our survivors while they are still here to give them in person."

-END-

For comment and interviews contact:

Natalia Thomas
Marketing Manager, the Sydney Jewish Museum
Email nthomas@sjm.com.au PH: 9360 7999

Janet Murker
Vice President, the Kindertransport Association
PH: 0409 035 028