

Torch Award Entry No. TA09-115

Club Name & Club Number – Beth Israel (Owings Mills, MD) Brotherhood / 1111

Entry Title – Remembering the Kindertransport

Contact Person – Dan Dinkin

Contact Person Email – dan@cobaltconsulting.com

Contact Person Telephone Number – 410-526-2882 / 410-458-5699

Will the entry be submitted by email or paper? - Email  
Questions? – None

Number of club members: \_\_\_ 130

Synagogue name, city and state: \_\_\_ Beth Israel Congregation / Owings Mills, MD

Club President name (at time of entry): \_\_\_ Dan Dinkin

Club President name (at time of convention): \_\_\_ Mark Schenerman

Person preparing entry: \_\_\_ Dan Dinkin

Email address of person preparing entry: \_\_\_ dan@cobaltconsulting.com

Date of entry submission: \_\_\_ 4/25/09

## Part II.

Date of event: 4/19/2009

In recognition of the 70th Anniversary of the Kindertransport (to move Jewish children from of Nazi Germany to England), the Brotherhood – in conjunction with the Beth Israel Sisterhood – sponsored this event. John Obermeyer, a child rescued by the Kindertransport (and now living in MD) was invited to speak. A representative from the British Embassy in Washington was also invited. After a sumptuous breakfast was served by the Brotherhood to the 230 attendees, a short ceremony was held where Mr. Obermeyer and 5 Holocaust survivors came onto the bema to light Yom Hashoah Yellow Candles. This was followed by our two keynote speakers. At the end, Mr. Obermeyer played a song from a published CD which was written by his daughter in honor of his journey from Germany to England – via the Kindertransport – and eventually to the US. As attendees left, they were given an FJMC Yellow Candle to take home and light on Yom Hashoah. Much applause and many tears.

The event was covered by the local news media both before and after the event. There were 230 attendees.

## Part III.

The impetus for this idea came from Beth Horton of the Sisterhood. A history teacher, she recently learned of the Kindertransport and its upcoming 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She, along with the Sisterhood President, Judi Dickman-Narrow, approached the Brotherhood and asked if we would co-sponsor the event and use one of our monthly breakfast slots for the event. We quickly agreed – seeing the obvious tie-in to the Yellow Candle program.

On the whole, this was one of the most successful programs in the history of Beth Israel Congregation – not just the Brotherhood. We received many accolades from the attendees – including Kindertransport “alumni”, others who escaped Germany before the war, and from Holocaust survivors who attended. Attendees were from the entire Baltimore community, not just Beth Israel. Further, this

was a joint effort between the Brotherhood and the Sisterhood. The success of this program allowed us to consider continuing to look for collaborative events. The FJMC received a positive image due to the use of the Yellow Candles. It is now our intention to possibly hold a similar event each Yom Hashoah.

#### Part IV.

Much more including video is available upon request. If needed, we can also obtain and provide copies of the media articles.



Advertising Poster



Beth Horton (Sisterhood, Program Co-Chair), Mr. John Obermeyer (Kindertransport child), Mr. Michael Howells (British Embassy), Rabbi Jay Goldstein, Scott Hample (Brotherhood, Program Co-Chair), Dan Dinkin (Brotherhood, President)



Breakfast



Breakfast (Mr. & Mrs. Obermeyer, Mr. Howells)



Some of the kitchen stars (Marvin Mervis, Mark Schenerman)



Breakfast



Mr. Howells speaking



Mr. Howells speaking



Mr. & Mrs. Obermeyer, Beth Horton



Mr. Obermeyer and Holocaust survivors lighting Yellow Candles



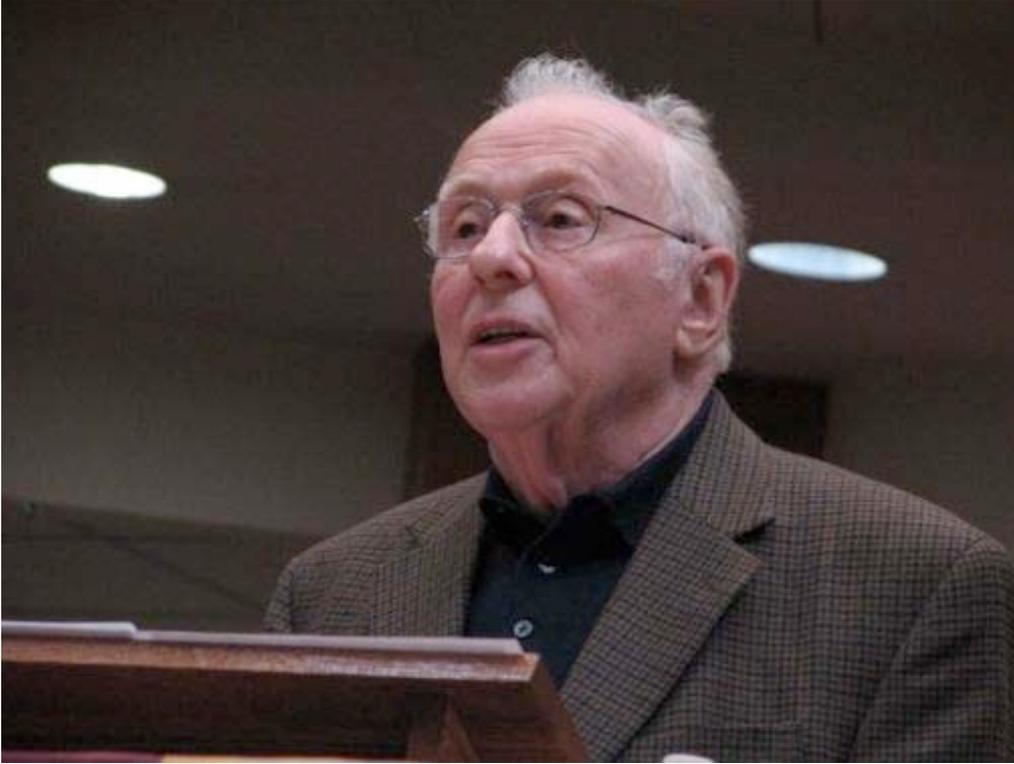
The Yellow Candles



The Audience



Mr. Obermeyer speaking



Mr. Obermeyer speaking



Beth Horton presents Kindertransport literature to Beth Israel's Library



Rabbi Goldstein and Mr. Obermeyer



Dan Dinkin, Rabbi Goldstein and Mr. Obermeyer

Our Agenda (very tight, but well organized):

### 19 April 2009 AGENDA

1. **9:30** Breakfast. **(30 mins)**
2. **10:00** Move to the Sanctuary for Program **(10 mins)**
3. **10:10** **(Beth Horton) (5 mins)**
  - a) Bring meeting to order; general welcome, and
  - b) Acknowledge John Obermeyer ,& Joan Obermeyer, **(1 min.)**, (allow for applause); Gloria Canter **(1 min.)**, (allow for applause); and Michael Howells **(1 min.)**, (allow for applause)
  - c) Introductory remarks about the PROGRAM.
4. **10:15** **(Zelda Zabin) D'var Torah (5 mins)**
5. **10:20** **(Dan Dinkin) Brotherhood Announcements (5 mins)**
6. **10:25** **(Judi Dickman-Narrow) Sisterhood Announcements. Introduce Gloria Canter (5 mins)**
7. **10:30** **(Gloria Canter) Upcoming conference (5 mins)**
8. **10:35** **(Beth Horton) Introduce Rabbi Goldstein (Rabbi Goldstein)**
  - a) Yom HaShoah connection **(5 mins)**
  - b) The work of the British people during WWII. Introduce Michael Howells
9. **10:40** **Michael Howells (5 mins)**
10. **10:45** **(Beth Horton) Intro of John Obermeyer. (Ask Obermeyer to light Yom HaShoah candles before he begins his presentation.) (30 mins)**

\* \* \* \* \* 10:45:- 11:15 **John Obermeyer** \* \* \* \* \*

**(Audience will be told to hold questions until after John Obermeyer speaks.)**
11. **11:15** **(Beth Horton) (5 mins)**
  - a) Ask other Kindertransport people to stand and introduce them
  - b) Q&A w/John Obermeyer
12. **11:20** **(Beth Horton) (5 mins)**

Invite other Kindertransport to stand and be honoured  
Invite other Holocaust survivors to stand and be honoured
13. **11:30** **(Beth Horton) Presentation of book and video to Rabbi Goildstein**
14. **11:35** Closing remarks from **Dan Dinkin**, and thanks to **Scott Hample, Phyllis Hersh, guests**, and all who helped.

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** A lot going on before the main speaker (7 speakers in fact). Please keep to your allotted times. We don't want to wear out our audience.