

2024 Arts & Writing Contest

FOR WNY STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 – 12

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KINDERTRANSPORT

Please respond to ONE of these prompts through Arts or Writing

- Describe the challenge faced by the parents or children of the Kindertransport.
- Explore the theme of loss experienced by either the parents or children of the Kindertransport.

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

What was the Kindertransport? harwichhavenhistory.co.uk

The Kindertransport, German for “children’s transport” was an organized effort by British organizations and others to rescue Jewish children following Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass. Ten thousand children under the age of 18 were allowed by the British Government to enter Great Britain and on December 2, 1938 the first train with two hundred children arrived. Most of the Jewish children came from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. The children were placed in British foster homes, hostels, schools, and farms.

On the trains, the children felt both excitement and fear – many of the younger children believed they were “going on holiday”, while the older children may have had some understanding of their circumstances and their parents’ anguish.

When they arrived at the international ports, the children boarded ferries that took them across the English Channel. On reaching Britain, many children boarded trains that took them to Harwich and Southampton. Upon arriving at Harwich, the children were taken to the Warner’s Holiday Camp in Dovercourt. The camp provided the children a place to begin their new life in England. They lived together and were taught English. It was at the camp they met their prospective new families.

Paddington Bear and the Connection to the Kindertransport

Just like Paddington, named after a British railroad station, was rescued by Mr. and Mrs. Brown, the children from the Kindertransport were saved by British families. Michael Bond, the author of Paddington Bear served in both the Royal Air Force and the Middlesex Regiment of the British Army and frequented British train stations. Bond saw children arriving at the Reading Train Station, with a label around their neck containing their name and address, carrying a little suitcase or package containing all their treasured possessions. Bond did not create Paddington Bear until two decades after the Kindertransport, but the image of those children never left him. Known for his royal blue coat, red hat and tag that says “Please look after this bear, Thank you”, Paddington embodies the appearance of many Kindertransport children. His suitcase is an emblem of his refugee status.

BOOK TITLES ABOUT THE KINDERTRANSPORT

Into the Arms of Strangers by Mark Jonathan Harris and Deborah Oppenheimer

By the Moon and Stars by Eva Hayman

My Heart in a Suitcase by Anne Fox

Ten Thousand Children: True Stories told by Children Who Escaped the Holocaust on the Kindertransport by Anne Fox

Not With a Silver Spoon by Harry Avray

Letter to Alexander: A Family’s Kindertransport Experience by Renata Laxova

Kindertransport by Olga Levy Drucker

PEOPLE WHO HELPED ORGANIZE THE KINDERTRANSPORT

- Sir Nicholas Winton
- Florence Nankivell
- Geertruida (Truus) Wijsmuller-Meijer

LOCAL WNY HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS WHO WERE ON THE KINDERTRANSPORT –

buffalojewishfederation.org/survivor-stories

- Nicholas Leibovic
- Vera Coppard-Leibovic
- Beth Lewin
- Stephan Lewy

DEADLINE AND SUBMISSIONS

1. The online application must be completed for all entries.
bit.ly/ARTSANDWRITING
2. All material must be submitted no later than **April 19, 2024**.
3. All writing submissions – **750 WORDS MAX** – must be entered into the online application.
4. Visual Arts entries should be mailed or dropped off at the Jewish Community Center – 2640 North Forest Road, Getzville, NY 14068.
Contact Lauren Bloomberg to arrange drop off.
5. All artist statements – **100 WORDS MAX** – must be entered into the online application.

AWARDS

Eugene Finton Scholars Award:

Prizes will be awarded in both the art and writing categories:

- First prize for each grade, in each category, will be \$100
- Second prize for each grade, in each category, will be \$50

Mary Deane Freeland Award:

- Two Best of Show prizes of \$250 each – one in writing and one in art – will be given to the recipient’s school to purchase Holocaust related materials.

Best of Show winners will have their work published in the July/August edition of The Jewish Journal.

Prizes will be awarded at a ceremony on May 28, 2024 at Congregation Shir Shalom, 4660 Sheridan Dr., Williamsville