As the Nazi Party increased its power in Europe during the 1930s, the governments of nearly all unoccupied countries (including Great Britain and the United States) maintained strict immigration quotas.

At the Evian Conference in July 1938, the world community made it clear that in terms of Jewish immigrants, “none was too many.” At this international meeting, representatives from 32 countries around the world met to talk about what they should do with the large number of Jewish people fleeing from the Nazis. Despite the danger posed to Jews by the German government, most countries decided that they would not accept Jewish refugees.

It was not until after Kristallnacht (“The Night of Broken Glass”), a Nazi-sponsored pogrom in November 1938 that left thousands of synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses destroyed, that the British government changed its mind. Pressured by refugee aid committees, the British government agreed to allow select groups of Jewish refugees to enter the country. Although it still would not allow Jewish adults into the country – for fear that they would take jobs away from British citizens – the British government opened their borders to children fleeing from the Nazis.

Between 1938 and 1939, unaccompanied children under the age of 17 were allowed to enter Great Britain from Central Europe, as long as private citizens promised to support them financially. Known as the Kindertransport (Children’s Transport), this series of refugee efforts saved the lives of close to 10,000 children from Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. Although most of these children were Jewish, non-Jewish children were also included in the Kindertransport.
**Anschluss**: Nazi Germany’s invasion and annexation of Austria in March 1938

**emigrate**: to leave one’s country

**Evian Conference**: conference on “Jewish refugee problem” held at Evians-les-Bains in France in July 1938, by representatives of 32 countries, including the United States. The only agreement reached was that the existing immigration quota systems in effect in the various countries would be upheld.

**genocide (as defined by The United Nations Genocide Convention: Article II)**: any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

**Kindertransport (Children’s Transport)**: the popular name of an exodus of unaccompanied children from Nazi-occupied Europe to Great Britain between 1938 and 1939. Approximately 10,000 young lives were saved by the Kindertransport.

**Kristallnacht (“The Night of Broken Glass”)**: on November 9-10, 1938, the Nazis unleashed a wave of violence against German Jews, destroying hundreds of Jewish businesses, synagogues, and private homes, and arresting tens of thousands of Jews.

**Nazi**: shortened name for Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei (N.S.D.A.P.), the political party that emerged in Munich, Germany after World War I. The party was taken over by Adolf Hitler in the early 1920s.

**pogrom**: violent attack of a local Jewish population by non-Jews

**quota**: a limited or fixed amount of things or people

**synagogue**: Jewish place of worship

**Third Reich**: the name of the German government while under control of the Nazi Party

**Vienna**: Located in Austria, Vienna was an important center of culture and education for a variety of ethnic and religious groups. It was Lisa Jura’s birthplace.

**visa**: a document granting permission for someone to enter a country

**survivor**: Within the context of the Holocaust, a survivor is someone who escaped death at the hands of the Nazis or their collaborators.

**refugee**: someone who flees their home for another country
The Children of Willesden Lane Bay Area BIG READ
Resources Available at the Tauber Holocaust Library

Books


*** Available to borrow for classroom use through the JFCS Holocaust Center’s Teacher Resource Center
The Children of Willesden Lane Bay Area BIG READ
Resources Available at the Tauber Holocaust Library

Films


Oral Histories
The JFCS Holocaust Center has a collection of over 2,000 audio and visual testimonies from Holocaust survivors and witnesses. Included in this collection are many testimonies by those who experienced the Kindertransport. These testimonies are available to view in the Tauber Holocaust Library.

To make an appointment to view an oral history, contact Yedida Kanfer at YedidaK@jfcs.org or 415-449-3748.