

# **The Danish Resistance and Rescue of the Jews during World War II**

## **BOOKS**

Bamberger, Ib Nathan. *The Viking Jews: A History of the Jews of Denmark*. (Soncino Press, 1983. 162 p. \$9.95. ISBN: 1-871055-60-1). A history of Jews in Denmark, beginning with the 1622 invitation by King Christian IV and ending with the transport of Danish Jews to Sweden in October 1943. The author was on one of the transports across the Oresund. (14 and up)

Benchley, Nathaniel. *Bright Candles: A Novel of the Danish Resistance*. (New York: Harper Collins, 1974; ISBN: 0060204613). Jens Hansen is the teenage protagonist of this historical fiction, which relates the events in Denmark from the German invasion (April 9, 1940) until their surrender. Interesting characters and quick pacing will hold the reader's attention as the resistance is recounted. Most of the book is about Jens' exploits, but he and his father are involved in the transport of Jews to Sweden. (12 and up)

Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Yellow Star: The Legend of King Christian X of Denmark*. Illustrated by Henri Sorensen. (Peachtree Publishers, 2000. ISBN: 1-56145-208-4). An author's note say that this story is a legend, but goes on to tell how the Danes united and protected Jewish citizens during World War II, led by the King who inspired his people. (8-12)

Goldberger, Leo. *Rescue of the Danish Jews: Moral Courage Under Stress* (NYU Press, 1988; ISBN: 978-0814730119). "A distinguished group of internationally known individuals, Jews and non-Jews, rescuers and rescued, offer their enriching first-person accounts and reflections that explore the question: Why did the Danes risk their lives to rescue the Jewish population?" (14 and up)

Levine, Ellen. *Darkness Over Denmark: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews*. (Scholastic, 2000. 164 p. ISBN: 0-439-29629-3). A history with pictures, a chronology, maps, an extensive bibliography, an index and short biographies of several people mentioned in the book. (10-14)

Levitin, Sonia. *Room in the Heart*. (Speak (Penguin Group), 2003. 290 p. \$7.99. ISBN: 0-14-240339-3). Compelling historical fiction, with chapters alternating between the perspective of several protagonists including a Jewish girl, her non-Jewish friend's brother and a German soldier. This book's tension is created by the secrecy in which many characters participated in acts of resistance and defiance. (10-14)

Loeffler, Martha. *Boats in the Night: Knud Dyby's Involvement in the Rescue of Danish Jews and the Danish Resistance*. (Lura Publications, 1999; ISBN: 973-0930697075). "Through the experiences of Knud Dyby, former printer, Royal Guardsman and member of the Danish resistance to the German occupation of

Denmark, Martha Loeffler tells the dramatic story of the rescue of more than 90% of Denmark's Jews. Using his connections with fishing boat skippers, Dyby arranged for the secretive transport of Jews across the sound to safety in Sweden. More than a story of individual daring and bravery, it is also a testimony to a people's resistance to tyranny and their courage to care for each other." (12 and up)

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*. (Dell Publishing, 1989. 137 p. ISBN: 0-440-40327-8). Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen helps her best friend, Ellen Rosen and her family escape from Denmark by way of her uncle's fishing boat. Annemarie learns the meaning of bravery and courage as she delivers an important package. 1990 Newberry Prize Winner. (10-14)

Ollendorff, Stephen A. and Sawyer, Kenneth I. *The Brave Little Boat*. Illustrations by Ivan Lacovic. (Tulling Publishing, 2007; ISBN: 0-9748857-7-0). Kayla and Landon's grandfather tell them the story of a true hero—an old wooden boat that transported Danish Jews to Sweden in order to avoid Nazi capture in October 1943. The boat is on display at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. (8-12)

Pundik, Herbert. *In Denmark It Could Not Happen: The Flight of Jews to Sweden in 1943* (Gefen, 1998; ISBN: 978-9652291769). "Part memoir and part pure history, Pundik's talent for storytelling and his journalistic compunction for detail puts *In Denmark It Could Not Happen* in a class of Holocaust literature still capable of expanding our understanding of humanity's tenuous and enigmatic grasp of morality." (14 and up)

Toksvis, Sandi. *Hitler's Canary*. (Roaring Brook Press (A Deborah Brodie Book), 2007; ISBN-10: 1-59643-24-0). Fictional account based on historical facts featuring an non-Jewish acting family who become involved in the resistance and the eventual transport of Jews to Sweden. (10-14)

Werner, Emmy. *A Conspiracy of Decency: The Rescue of Danish Jews during World War II*. (Basic Books, 2004; ISBN: 978-0813342788). "This history of the Holocaust in Denmark offers a wealth of first-person material, placed within a factually accurate, well-crafted text. The Danes gave a famously cold shoulder to the Germans when they invaded in 1940, and secretly evacuated 7,000 Danish Jews to Sweden when the Germans ordered them deported in 1943. Werner (Reluctant Witnesses), a developmental psychologist and research professor at University of California, Davis, uses accessible concepts (such as people of "good will") to convey what happened, and gives careful accounts of the roles of the Danish Lutheran church, the universities and the large Copenhagen hospital Bispebjerg in speaking out against deportation, and mobilizing when it was imminent. Werner devotes a chapter to the refugees' actual passage northward, and a chapter to their reception in Sweden, where some found employment." – Publishers Weekly (14 and up)

## DVDs

*A Day in October* (Tango Entertainment, 1991; 97 minutes, color). Sarah Kublitz finds a wounded resistance fighter and gives him shelter in her home. "Sarah and Niels fall in love as the Resistance learns of the Nazis plan to arrest Jews." Inattention to detail and the love story subplot detract from the historical relevance. (14 and up)

*Miracle at Midnight* (Disney 1998; 89 minutes, color). A Danish doctor and his family become involved in the resistance and the rescue of Jews. (10 and up)

*The Power of Conscience: The Danish Resistance and the Rescue of the Jews* (Direct Cinema, 2007; 55 minutes, color, black & white). This documentary "features the testimony of prisoners and saboteurs, the rescuers and the rescued, to tell the story of a people who refused to cooperate, placing the dictates of their conscience above an immoral authority." (12 and up)

## **ARTICLE**

Bamberger, Rabbi I. Nathan. "God's Handboat." From *Theological and Halakhic Reflections on the Holocaust*, edited by Bernhard H. Rosenberg (Ktav Publishing, 19920, pp. 295-298.

N.B. Rosh Hashanah fell on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1943.