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British Consulate-General
Chicago



“Save one life, save the world”

The Consulate General of the Czech Republic
Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center
The British Consulate-General

in cooperation with

Prague Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities International Program
American Jewish Committee Chicago Chapter
American Friends of the Czech Republic

cordially invite you to

Homage to a Great European: Sir Nicholas Winton

Keynote speaker: Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic in
Philadelphia
Peter A. Rafaeli

Followed by the screening of Matej Minac’s film ***The Power of Good***
(Winner of the International Emmy Award 2002)

Thursday **May 21, 2009, 6:00 p.m.**
Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center
9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, Illinois 60077
Cocktail reception opening the event
A free optional tour of the Museum starts at 5:00 p.m.

RSVP to Lillian Polus Gerstner ph. 847.967.4842 or
lillian.gerstner@ilhmec.org

Free parking on first-come – first-served basis is available



Sir Nicholas Winton – The Power of Good

In 1939, Sir Nicholas Winton personally and by his own initiative saved the lives of 669 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and brought them across Hitler's Germany to his native Britain. For nearly 50 years, he kept secret how he rescued these children, but now he is often called "Britain's Schindler." Unlike Schindler and Wallenberg, Winton is today still alive and well at 100, and still quiet about why he kept his secret for so long. But, he also is an immensely compelling symbol of how the caring of one man can truly make a difference and truly demonstrate "The Power of Good." His efforts epitomize what it means to be an upstander, an example the new Illinois Holocaust Museum will inspire young people to follow.

We believe that "The Power of Good" has a strong message for our turbulent times, and may be the ultimate expression of confronting "evil" on a personal level. Sir Nicholas Winton said it best in a letter he wrote in 1939, "...There is a difference between passive goodness and active goodness. The latter is, in my opinion, the giving of one's time and energy in the alleviation of pain and suffering. It entails going out, finding and helping those who are suffering and in danger and not merely in leading an exemplary life, in a purely passive way of doing no wrong."

Sir Nicholas was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II, he received the highest civilian award from former Czech President Vaclav Havel and many others. In the U.S., President George W. Bush wrote Sir Nicholas a letter of thanks in 2006, and a year later Congress passed House Resolution 583 honoring him for his rescue mission in 1938/39. The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center is a most fitting setting for the celebration that marks Sir Nicholas Winton's 100th birthday (May 19, 1909).

The Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center is a project of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois. As expressed in the slogan "Remember The Past, Transform The Future," this new world-class museum is dedicated to preserving the memories of those lost in the Holocaust and teaching current generations about the need to fight hatred, indifference and genocide in today's world.