

**Sir Nicholas George Winton MBE** (1909 – 2015) was a British stockbroker and humanitarian who helped to rescue Jewish children who were at risk of being murdered by Nazi Germany during the Holocaust.

Born to German-Jewish parents who had immigrated to Britain at the beginning of the 20th century, Winton assisted in the rescue of 669 children, most of them Jewish, from Czechoslovakia (now two sovereign states, Czech Republic and Slovakia) on the eve of World War II.

On a brief visit to then-Czechoslovakia in 1938, he helped compile a list of children needing rescue and, returning to Britain, he worked to fulfill the legal requirements of bringing the children to Britain and finding homes and sponsors for them. This operation was later known as the Czech Kindertransport – German for “children's transport.”

His humanitarian accomplishments remained unknown and unnoticed by the world for nearly 50 years until 1988 when he was invited to the BBC television show *That's Life!* On air, he was reunited with dozens of the children he had helped come to Britain and was introduced to many of their children and grandchildren.

In 2003, Winton was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for "services to humanity in saving Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.”

In 2009, he celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday by flying over White Waltham Airfield in a microlight piloted by the daughter of one of the boys he saved.

In 2014, he was awarded the highest honor of the Czech Republic, the Order of the White Lion (1st class). On that day Sir Nicholas was able to meet some of the people he rescued 75 years earlier, themselves in their 80s. He said, “I want to thank you all for this enormous expression of thanks... I am delighted that so many of the children are still about and are here to thank me.”

In 2015 Sir Nicholas died in his sleep in London at age 106.

**Author/illustrator Peter Sis** (rhymes with “fleece”) was born in 1949 in the former Czechoslovakia. As a teenager in the 1960s, Peter developed an interest in Western culture: beat poetry, long hair for men, blue jeans, and rock and roll music, particularly in the music of The Beatles, The Beach Boys and The Rolling Stones. He studied art in London under Quentin Blake (illustrator of books by Roald Dahl).

In 1982 Peter travelled to the United States to create an animated film based on his country’s participation in the 1984 Olympics to be held in Los Angeles. However, the Soviet Union (now Russia) initiated a boycott of the games that included Czechoslovakia. Peter did not return home. He remained in America and was granted asylum and began writing and illustrating books.

Peter has occasionally returned to filmmaking, producing commercials for Nickelodeon and PBS Kids, plus shorts for Sesame Street. He became a U.S. citizen in 1988, the same year Sir Nicholas Winton was on *That’s Life!* meeting some of the grown children rescued in 1938.

Today, Peter lives in Irvington, New York.