

# Kristallnacht

November 9-10, 1938

## Commemoration



*Shop damage in Magdenburg.*

**Highland Park Conservative Temple  
Congregation Anshe Emeth**

*Eliot I. Malomet, Rabbi  
Sheldon Freidenreich, President*

**November 9, 2023**



# Highland Park Conservative Temple Congregation Anshe Emeth

A Commemoration in person and virtual

## **85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kristallnacht “Night of Broken Glass”**

**November 9-10, 1938**

Welcome	Dr. Peter Schild
Invocation	Rabbi Eliot I. Malomet
Introduction of Speaker	Dr. Eugene Gottlieb
Featured Speaker	Steven Kolb His parents' eye witness account
“Never Shall I Forget”	Rabbi Eliot I. Malomet
“The Butterfly”	Stuart Mitnick
“The Sign”	To be announced
“Together”	Dr. Peter Schild
Closing	Dr. Peter Schild
Hatikvah Led By	Rabbi Eliot I. Malomet

## **Kristallnacht—A Summary:**

On the evening of November 9, 1938 and into the following day, the German Government unleashed a pogrom against the Jews, burning down synagogues and smashing the glass fronts of Jewish shops in Berlin and all big cities in Germany and Austria. The pogrom was allegedly in retaliation for the assassination of a German diplomat at the German Embassy in Paris by the 17-year old Herschel Grynszpan.

To describe it, the Nazis coined the phrase “die Kristallnacht” (literally Chrystal Night or Night of the Broken Glass). On that night 91 Jews were killed; 30,000 Jews sent to Dachau, Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen-Oranienburg Concentration Camps; 5,000 Jewish shops were looted; 191 synagogues attacked; and bonfires made of Torah scrolls, prayer books and volumes of Jewish history, philosophy and poetry. This action was a single event whose importance in the history of the Shoah or Holocaust, is that it represented the shift from mass arrest and terror to mass murder. From the time of Kristallnacht onwards, the momentum of the Holocaust gathered force and led to the wholesale persecution and the killing of six million Jews, including one and a half million children.

Kristallnacht was crucial in the movement towards the “Final Solution”, a systematic program of genocide, which was designed to annihilate every Jew in Europe. Soon to follow would be the deaths of millions of civilians, service men and women and partisans during WW II.

## **Never Shall I Forget - Elie Wiesel**

Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, that turned my life into one long night seven times sealed.

Never shall I forget that smoke.

Never shall I forget the small faces of the children whose bodies I saw transformed into smoke under a silent sky.

Never shall I forget those flames that consumed my faith for ever.

Never shall I forget the nocturnal silence that deprived me for all eternity of the desire to live.

Never shall I forget those moments that murdered my God and my soul and turned my dreams to ashes.

Never shall I forget those things, even were I condemned to live as long as God Himself.

Never.

## **The Butterfly - Pavel Friedmann**

June 4, 1942 in Terezin (Died in Auschwitz, September 29, 1944)

The last, the very last,  
So richly, brightly, dazzlingly yellow.  
Perhaps if the sun's tears would sing  
    against a white stone ...

Such, such a yellow  
Is carried lightly 'way up high.  
It went away I'm sure because it wished to  
    kiss the world goodbye.

For seven weeks I've lived in here,  
Penned up inside this ghetto  
But I have found what I love here.  
The dandelions call to me  
And the white chestnut branches in the court.  
Only I never saw another butterfly.

That butterfly was the last one.  
Butterflies don't live in here,  
    in the ghetto.

**The Sign - Edith Bruck**  
(Survivor of Auschwitz, Dachau, Christianstadt  
and Bergen –Belsen)

She died of helplessness  
you can write it on my tomb  
who knows where, there's no guarantee  
that one dies in the place one was born or lived  
one can be anywhere  
in this uncertain time  
there's no bad ground and good ground  
but I would like as a marker a small star  
with six points like that which shone  
in childhood on my threadbare coat  
carved well into the stone  
like the one they carved in me on my skin  
in my flesh and in my guts

and if there is another life  
I will be a yellow star  
to remind you that once there was  
Auschwitz.

*Translated from the Italian by Peter Ualrig Kennedy*

**TOGETHER:**

As we gather together on this anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom, we remember the heritage of European Jewry.

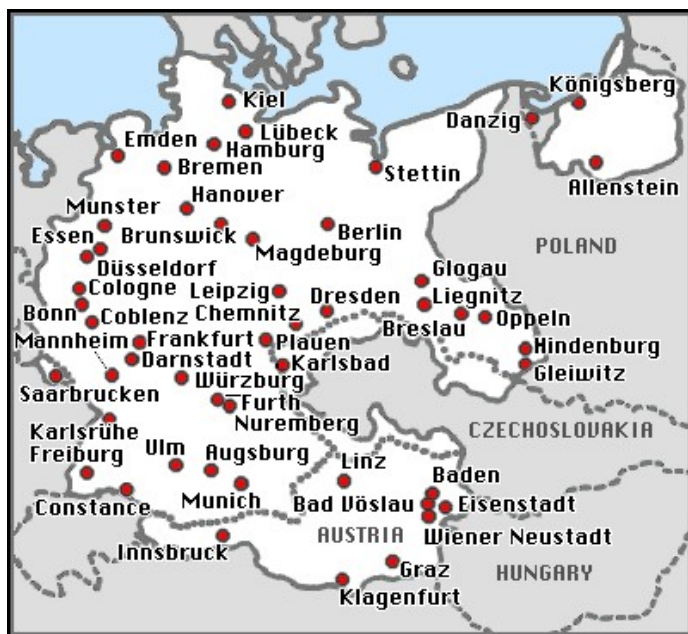
We remember that this night was a harbinger of what was yet to come.

On this night of broken glass, we remember the countless lives that were shattered and destroyed.

May their memories be a blessing.



Synagogue in Aachen Destroyed on Kristallnacht.



Cities throughout Germany where synagogues were destroyed.

# HPCT-CAE

## Holocaust Remembrance and Education Committee

Rabbi Eliot I. Malomet  
Sheldon Freidenreich, President

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Mindy and Arnie Schiffman

Barbara and Dr. Peter Schild

Gary Schwartz

Dr. Ted Stahl

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Photo and Narrative  
Exhibit

Dr. Eugene Gottlieb  
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Barbara and Dr. Peter Schild

Program

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