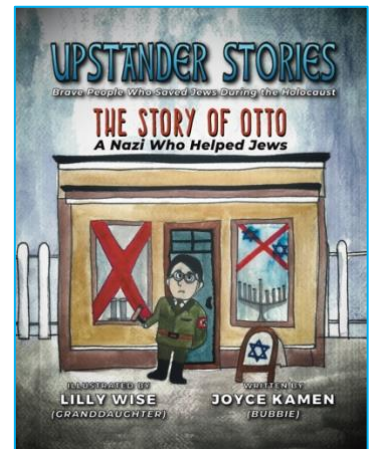


HOW A NAZI BECAME AN UPSTANDER DURING WWII

Granddaughter and Bubbie (Grandmother) Publish Third Book for Young Readers About Upstanders During the Holocaust

CINCINNATI, OHIO— The third book in the new **Upstander Stories: Brave People Who Saved Jews During the Holocaust** series has been released by 18-year-old illustrator Lilly Wise and her Bubbie (grandmother), writer Joyce Kamen.

In ***The Story of Otto—A Nazi Who Helped Jews***, young readers (aged 8-12) will learn about Otto Busse (1901-1980), a German man who was forced to become a Nazi in 1939—or be consigned to a concentration camp where he would be put to hard labor. Though he wore the uniform, Otto despised what the Nazis were doing to the Jews. He immediately made a personal vow to use the power his uniform gave him to help the Jews, and he did—in Bialystok, Poland, where he'd been sent by the Third Reich to operate a painting company there.



“When I then learned about the fate of the Jews up close...I was seized by a shudder at the Nazi methods used against the Jews,” Otto wrote after the war. “I was overcome by an unspeakable, deep pity for these persecuted people. The die was cast for me. The mission my heart and mind gave me was: Fight the destroyer and help the persecuted!”

Otto’s desire to help as many Jews as he could as the manager of the painting company led him to become part of the Jewish resistance effort in Bialystok. At great risk to his own life, Otto helped the group procure food, warm clothing, medicines and equipment to stage an uprising in the ghetto. The touching stories of three of the Jewish women he assisted and protected in Bialystok are also told in the book.

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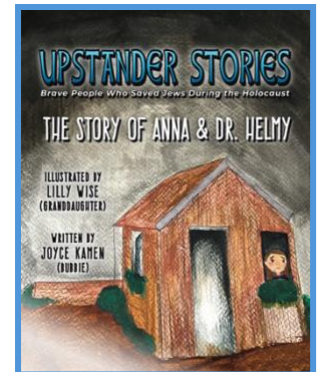


Bluma Erenkranc Shapiro kept a photo of Otto Busse and his wife Erna at her bedside for years.

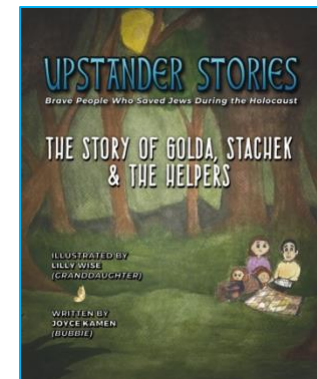
“My mother told me that when she worked for Otto Busse at the painting company, he would invite her to sit at the lunch table with the non-Jewish workers—which was unheard of at the time,” said Barry Shapiro, son of Bluma Erenkranc Shapiro. “She also said he would escort her safely back into the ghetto after work so the Nazi guards at the gate would not search her — since Otto always gave her extra food

to smuggle into the ghetto for her family. These may seem like little things that he did for her, but back then, these were really great acts of heroism.”

The first book in the series, ***The Story of Anna and Dr. Helmy***, revealed how an Arab-Muslim Egyptian doctor saved a young Jewish girl from deportation in Nazi-occupied Berlin to a concentration camp during World War II. Dr. Mohammed Helmy risked his life every day for over two years to hide Anna Boros. He also arranged for her parents and grandparents to be hidden as well.



In ***The Story of Golda, Stachek and the Helpers***, the second book in the series, young readers met a brave young Catholic man named Stachek—an employee and friend of a Jewish businessman in Stryi, Poland — who risked his life to save his boss's family (including their 9-month old baby named Golda) and nearly 30 other Jews—from the Nazis during World War II. Along the way, Stachek—who is believed to have died because the Nazis learned he was helping Jews— enlisted the help of others in the community who were also helping to save Jews.



These stories not only impart stories of courage and sacrifice during the Holocaust; they remind readers of the importance of being Upstanders today—acting to help others in need —and how doing the right thing can change the world for the better.

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Upstander Stories was born after Lilly participated in a high-school class project to illustrate a book about two members of her community who survived the Holocaust. She was so inspired by the experience that several months later, she asked her Bubbie if she would write a book for young readers about how Bubbie’s husband Fred’s biological mother (Anna) was saved by an Egyptian doctor in Nazi-occupied Berlin — while Lilly would create the illustrations.

“Publishing a book together with my Bubbie, especially on such an important topic as the Holocaust, was deeply meaningful,” said Lilly, now a senior in high school. “I felt a profound sense of duty to accurately and respectfully convey these stories as works of art—knowing that my work could contribute to preserving history and fostering understanding. My generation must now emerge as the keepers of these stories.”

During the Holocaust, many non-Jewish people were horrified about what was happening to the Jews in their communities. Most were too terrified to help them because they knew if they were caught, their fate would be the same as the Jews they were trying to save. However, others decided to act—regardless of the risks.

“An **Upstander** is the opposite of a bystander,” explained Joyce. “A bystander is anyone who sees bad behavior or terrible things happening to other people but does nothing about it. But an **Upstander** is anyone who sees an injustice happening to another person and decides to step forward to help in the name of justice.”

Lilly and Bubbie hope that young readers—along with educators around the world—will find these books (and those that follow) to be inspiring and fully capable of reducing the surging incidences of antisemitism, racism and all forms of hate in America and throughout the world.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF *UPSTANDER STORIES* WILL BE DONATED TO THE NANCY AND DAVID WOLF HOLOCAUST AND HUMANITY CENTER IN CINCINNATI, OHIO.

TO ORDER, [CLICK HERE](#). FOR MORE INFORMATION, [CLICK HERE](#).

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