



Had it not been for the four students from Uniontown High School in Kansas, the name of Irena Sendler might have been as anonymous as the 2500 names of the children she kept in a little glass jar buried in her back yard. The four students were the winners of the 2000 Kansas State National History Day competition writing a play about the heroic actions of this women.

The time was WWII. A time when Germany occupied Poland. A time for the holocaust and the systematic extermination of the Jews in concentration camps spread throughout Germany. It was also a time Irena Sendler felt she had to do something for the jewish children. Being from Warsaw herself, she had no trouble getting a special permit as a plumbing/sewer specialist to help fight the contagious diseases that were prevalent in certain sections of the Warsaw ghetto. It was through this work that she would join forces with the Polish Council for Aid to Jews which had underground networks in the region.

Using these networks, Irena was able to smuggle out over 2500 Jewish children from Warsaw placing them in the apartments of those who volunteered to shelter them thus saving the children from almost certain death at one of the 300 camps. While gathering the children, Irena kept a record of each she had rescued putting their names in a small jar which she buried under a tree in her back yard.

However, some say buying those names is what led to her capture. Maybe it was a nosy neighbor or an informant or maybe even one of her own relatives; no one knows for sure. What was known is that Irena was taken prisoner by the Germans and sent away for interrogation where she was severely beaten having both her legs and arms broken in the process. In spite of that painful ordeal, Irena gave up no information.



After the war, Irena tried to locate the parents of those children listed in that little glass jar. To her dismay she found that most have died in the concentration camps. Her only option was to find suitable homes which she did by way of foster care and from those who wanted to adopt.

Bringing to light the acts of this incredible women by those 4 high school students didn't go unnoticed. In 2007 Irena was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Certainly a fitting reward for such a noble lady.

However, Ms. Sendler was nudged out by an ex Vice Presidential candidate who won for his slide show on global warming.

I'm sure Irena would have wished him well. And why not? The reward Irena was looking for could never have been found in any Peace Prize or have any monetary value placed on it.

For you see, the reward Irena Stable was looking for had already been granted many years ago. It was resting in a little glass jar buried beneath a tree in her own back yard.

For it was in this prize that no greater peace could ever be found.