

The Tree of Life

How a Holocaust Sapling
Inspired the World



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He also saw a woman secretly teaching the children to read, write, and celebrate Jewish holidays.

Tu BiShvat was coming —The New Year of the Trees.



The teacher, Irma Lauscher, risked her life when she asked the prisoner to sneak in a sapling.

The prisoner risked his life when he said yes.





The children were comforted by this living lesson, smuggled in just in time for the holiday. They planted it in a pot.



Over time, fewer and fewer children were left to care for the tree.

With helpless hearts, they watched more and more of their friends leave . . .



In time, the tree grew taller.

Its roots grew stronger.

Its branches grew longer.

In 2021, a miracle came to New York City.

Children cheered and clapped as a fifteen-foot tree was lowered into the ground across from their school.

They'd learned about this tree—about how it was born from a branch of a giant maple, grown in secret by a group of children in the Holocaust.

The students lined up to water it, just like those children nearly eighty years earlier.

