



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
National Historic Site  
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## National Park Service News Release

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### ***“VISA FOR LIFE: DIPLOMATS WHO RESCUED JEWS”*** exhibition opens at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site

***“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”***

**- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

In partnership with the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site will host the exhibit, ***“Visa for Life: Diplomats Who Rescued Jews,”*** that details the courageous actions of nine individual diplomats who rescued Jews during the Holocaust and who were some of the foremost human rights defenders of their time. The exhibit also focuses on the collaboration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Jewish community in the struggle for Civil Rights. The exhibit will be on display in the D.R.E.A.M. Gallery of the National Park Service Visitor Center from May 5<sup>th</sup> – July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Admission is free.

Out of fear of Nazi Germany, many countries refused to issue visas to people wishing to flee the Holocaust, even though this often meant the difference between life and death. Fortunately, some diplomats (official representatives of foreign governments) disobeyed their superiors and issued visas anyway, saving tens of thousands of people from death by allowing them to immigrate to other countries not under the control of the Nazi regime.

To date, over 22,000 non-Jewish people have been recognized as “Righteous Among the Nations” for risking their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, and many other heroes remain unknown. Only 18 of these recognized people were diplomats, yet the contributions of these few men saved the lives of tens of thousands of Jews. Although tens of thousands were

saved, an estimated eleven million people were murdered during the Holocaust. In an era of near total moral collapse, these diplomats risked everything to help strangers uphold the most basic human right: the right to live.

The same values that inspired the exhibition's diplomats to risk their lives to save others, the belief in equality, justice, and the sanctity of human life; also inspired those who fought for the civil rights of all Americans during the 1950s and 1960s. Here in Atlanta and throughout the South, Jews risked their lives and livelihoods to support Dr. King and his fellow civil rights activists. To these Jews, to save one life is to save the world.

For more information on changing exhibits at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, visit [www.nps.gov/malu](http://www.nps.gov/malu) or call (404) 331-5190.



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