

7000 Stars Shining  
By Isabella Bowen

My painting represents the stand the brave people of Denmark took to smuggle most of their Jewish population, over 7000 people, out of Denmark and into nearby Sweden after Denmark was invaded by Nazi Germany. I first learned about this act of resistance from my “sister” Michelle who suggested I read the book, “Number the Stars”.

The boat in my painting represents all the fishing boats used to smuggle the Jewish people to Sweden. My “sister” Michelle, who converted to Judaism about 5 years ago was my nanny during my toddler years. As a toddler, I called her “Shell,” thus the name of the boat. Also in my painting, there are 70 stars in the night sky, each star represents 100 people who were saved. One of the things not represented in my painting which I found interesting about the Danish resistance was the use cocaine/blood-soaked handkerchiefs to throw off the tracking dogs. I thought that was very clever.

I’ve named my painting, “7000 Stars Shining” in honor of the 7220 Jewish people saved by the Danish Resistance movement and the Danish people during World War II.

*Number the Stars*, 1989. Lowry, Lois. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, New York.

Danish resistance movement, Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danish\\_resistance\\_movement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danish_resistance_movement)