

**REMEMBRANCE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION**  
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At 22 Reform congregations throughout North America, b'nai mitzvah students are forming a lifelong bond with children they've never met and about whom very little is known: the 1.5 million young people who perished in the Shoah.

Cognizant that "soon the survivor generation will be lost to us as living witnesses and educators," Jewish educator Gesher Calmenson developed "Remember Us: The Holocaust B'nai Mitzvah Project." Each participant is given all the known information about a child who perished and is encouraged to perform *mitzvot* in the child's name. The student also recites *Kaddish* for the child on the day of his or her bar/bat mitzvah and every year on the anniversary of that day. "In this way," Calmenson says, "we hope to help develop the next generation of Jews who will take up the *mitzvah* of remembrance."

At Congregation Sherith Israel in San Francisco, 12 children have been "twinned" with children who perished, and educator Nancy Sheftel-Gomes says that all of them have been "extremely thoughtful and serious about their tasks." The Remember Us program "adds a seriousness and dignity to the bat mitzvah," the mother of one bat mitzvah student told the *Jewish Newsweekly of Northern California*.

The program has been equally successful at Congregation Kol Tikvah in Woodland Hills, California. "I have a serious desire to provide Holocaust education for my students," say Brad May, Kol Tikvah's education director. "Remember Us has made kids feel more connected to the Shoah."

For more information, please visit [www.remember-us.org](http://www.remember-us.org) or contact [remember@sonic.net](mailto:remember@sonic.net), 707-570-2883.