

# Jaap Penratt

1918-2006  
By: Mariah Unruh

# Place of Birth and Family Information

- Born on April 11th, 1918 in Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Wife named Jettie
- Three daughters named Marjolijn, Mir, and Noelle



Amsterdam, Netherlands

# Occupation and Life Before the War

- Interior designer, architect and sculptor for titles and statues



Architect



Interior Designer

## Ghetto Life and Camps They Were Sent to:

- Jaap Penratt was not sent to any camps and was not involved in any ghettos meaning he was not in one because he became part of the Dutch resistance against the German occupation of the Netherlands

## Acts of Resistance:

- Part of Dutch Resistance
- When he was a child he would turn on lights for Jews for Shabbat because they were not allowed to do so
- Started resistance acts by forging identity papers and helping Jews escape
- Was caught and got sent to jail where he was tortured but refused to give up information; when he was released continued his activities
- Made over 20 trips smuggling 406 Jews saying they were slave laborers

## Rescue Efforts:

- He saved hundreds of Jews, about 406
- Rescued them by using his forgery skills to forge their identity papers

# Did They Survive the War?

- Yes, Jaap Penraat survived the war
- He was tortured by Nazis but when they released him he continued his resistance activities
- Those activities became too risky so he hid in a village during the rest of the war
- He lived off sugar beets

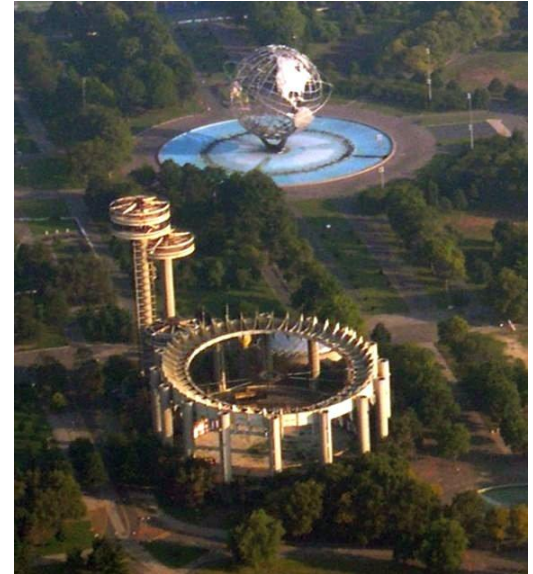
Sugar Beets



# What Did They do After the War?

- Became a noted designer in Amsterdam
- Moved to the United States in 1958
- Designed a Dutch Mill Cafe for the 1964 New York's World fair
- Lived in Catskills NY until his death

New York's World Fair





## Lesson or Message from This Person

- I think the message to help others without a reason to do so
- Be brave in the face of danger if it means going after what is right
- When asked why he did what he did, he said it was the “decent thing.... You do these things because in your mind there is no other way of doing it.”

# Jaap Penraat

Jaap died in 2006 In NY



at age 88