

THE JEWISH FOUNDATION *for the righteous*

"WHOEVER SAVES A SINGLE LIFE IS
AS IF ONE SAVES THE ENTIRE WORLD."—TALMUD

Haggadah Supplement

The following should be read after singing Dayyenu.

READER: Throughout the year, we commemorate examples of persecution of our ancestors. We recount tales of how despots have sought the exile and annihilation of the Jews. At Pesach, we tell of Pharaoh. At Hanukkah, of Antiochus. At Purim, of Haman. At Yom HaShoah, of Hitler. We speak of past persecutors, hoping through our civic awareness to prevent future persecutors from arising.

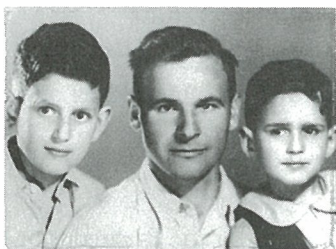
But we also give thanks for those in every generation who came forward to lead our people out of the darkness. We recognize the heroic rescuers in each epoch, hoping that the memory of their strength would fortify us if confronted with similar evil on a large scale.

We remember Moses, who with both vision and courage led his people from slavery to freedom. We remember the Maccabbees, whose strength and determination saved both the Temple and Jewish life in the land of Israel. We remember Esther, interceding to save fellow Jews from destruction.

READER: Yet, for all these tales in the distant past, we often fail to remember a number of heroes to the Jews, those who sought to save Jews from the Holocaust. During this dark time, there were those who had the courage to care — non-Jews who risked their lives, and often the lives of their families, to save Jews from death.

Just as we tell of Moses leading our people to freedom, at our Seder we will also tell of contemporary heroes and how they led Jews to their freedom less than sixty years ago.

READER: This year we recount the story of Alexander Roslan. In 1943, when the Warsaw



Alexander Roslan with Jacob & David Gutgeld

Ghetto was nearing its end, less than 50,000 Jews remained, including three little boys, Jacob, Shalom and David Gutgeld. Their mother had died; their father was in Russia. The boys' Aunt Hanna left the Ghetto to seek help for the boys. Alexander Roslan, who owned the flat the Gutgeld's pre-war chauffeur lived in, volunteered to help Hanna and offered to hide the three boys. It was no casual offer — people caught harboring Jews from the Nazis were subject to death themselves. In spite of the risk to himself and his family, which included two children, he helped Hanna smuggle the boys out of the Ghetto and hid them in his small apartment.

Alexander also offered to hide Aunt Hanna. She thanked him, but said she would join them after Passover. The final Nazi *aktion* against the Warsaw Ghetto was launched on the first day of Passover. Hanna was taken to Auschwitz and was not heard from again.

When Shalom and Jacob became ill with scarlet fever, Alexander was able to smuggle the sick boys into a hospital under false identities. Shalom died; but Jacob survived. Jacob and David remained with Alexander and his family until liberation. After the war, the boys went to Palestine to be reunited with their father. Alexander's courage and commitment saved the lives of these two Jewish boys. Today Alexander Roslan is in his late 80s and lives in Florida.

READER: Let the story of Alexander Roslan inspire us to do right when faced with evil.

READER: How can we pass this spirit on to future generations?

READER: First, let us honor these Christian rescuers by learning from their deeds and dedicating ourselves anew to fulfilling the traditional Jewish injunction to be responsible for the safety and well-being of our neighbors.

READER: Second, let us also honor these Christian rescuers by dedicating ourselves to assisting those among them who need our help. As Jews, we must ensure that these heroes to our people live out their remaining years in dignity — with adequate food, medicine and housing. A modest sacrifice on our parts can make an enormous difference in their lives.

READER: Tonight, let us commit to learning the stories of these righteous men and women who saved thousands of our people from the darkness and led them to places of safety. Let us also commit to making these stories a part of our seder. As we recall those who rose up against us in every generation, let us also remember those who stood apart from the evil. On this night of Passover, we recall Shifra and Puah, the two Egyptian midwives who defied Pharaoh's edict to drown the male children of Israel in the Nile. We recall the daughter of Pharaoh who violated her father's decree to drown the infants and who reached out to save Moses. Just as we remember and praise these first rescuers of Jewish children, let us ensure that the stories of those non-Jews who rescued Jewish children and adults during the Holocaust are remembered and passed down to our children and our children's children.

For more information about the work of the The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous or to learn more about other rescuers we support like Alexander Roslan, visit our website at www.jfr.org or contact us at: