

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 remember how despots have sought the exile and annihilation of the Jewish people. At *Pesach*, we tell of Pharaoh. At *Hanukkah*, of Antiochus. At *Purim*, of Haman. At *Yom HaShoah*, of Hitler. We speak of past oppressors, hoping through awareness we may prevent future tyrants 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 generation, hoping that the memory of their strength would fortify us if confronted with similar evil.

We remember Moses, who with both vision and courage led his people from slavery to freedom. We remember the Maccabees, 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: While we commemorate the heroes of the past, we often fail to remember modern heroes who saved 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 also tell of contemporary heroes and how they led Jews to their freedom sixty years ago.



Barbara Makuch

READER: This year we recount the story of Barbara Makuch. In July 1942 the Germans began rounding up the Jews of Sandomierz, Poland, shooting hundreds in the middle of town. Sarah Hyman and her seven-year-old daughter Malka escaped the German *aktion*. Desperate to save Malka's life, Sarah sought shelter for her daughter with Barbara Makuch. Though Barbara had never met Sarah or Malka, she could not refuse Sarah's request to save her daughter. She took Malka in and treated her as if she were her own child. Barbara also found hiding places for three other Jews.

When it became too dangerous to stay in the small town, Barbara took Malka to Lwow where her sister Halina lived. Halina and her fiancée worked for *Zegota*, a unit within the Polish underground established to help Jews in hiding. They found shelter for Malka in a Felician convent where she was hidden with 35 other Jewish children.

Barbara became a courier for *Zegota* – carrying false documents and delivering money to Jews in hiding. She continued to visit Malka every day. However, on a train ride from Warsaw to Lwow, Germans searched Barbara's bags and found *Zegota* documents. Barbara was arrested, tortured and placed in isolation. In 1943, she was sent to Ravensbrück, a German concentration camp for women. Two years later, in May 1945, while on a death march across Germany, she was liberated by the Americans. After the war, Malka was reunited with her mother who had survived Auschwitz. Today, Barbara Makuch is in her 80s and lives in Sandomierz, Poland.

READER: Let the story of Barbara Makuch 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 rescuers by learning from their deeds and dedicating ourselves anew to fulfilling the traditional Jewish commandment to be responsible for the safety and well-being of our neighbors.

READER: Second, let us also honor these rescuers by dedicating ourselves to assisting those among them who need our help. As Jews, we must ensure that these heroes live out their remaining years in dignity – with adequate food, medicine and housing. We have the ability to 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 death. 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 Barbara Makuch, visit our website at www.jfr.org or contact us at the address listed below.