

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 that through awareness we may prevent future tyrants from attaining power.

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

READER: 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 the Temple and Jewish life in the Land of Israel. We remember Esther, who interceded to save fellow Jews from destruction.

While we commemorate the heroes of the past, we also remember modern heroes who saved Jews from the Holocaust.

TOGETHER: During this dark time, there were those who had both the courage to care and the courage to act – 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 more than sixty-five years ago.

READER: At this Passover *Seder* we recount the story of Anna Stupnicka, a Polish teenager, who along with her mother, smuggled an eleven-year-old Jewish child out of the Warsaw ghetto, hid her, and obtained false identity documents for her.

READER: Anna and her mother, Janina, smuggled food and books into the Warsaw ghetto. As they were distributing food in the ghetto, they met Mr. Adler, who begged Anna and Janina to save his daughter, Liliana. Anna and Janina agreed to hide Liliana.



Anna Stupnicka

READER: During the winter of 1941, Janina and Anna smuggled eleven-year-old Liliana Adler out of the ghetto by dressing Liliana in Anna's Catholic school uniform, enabling Liliana to pass as a Christian. Anna never forgot how Liliana's father cried as he said his final goodbye to his only daughter who was dressed in a navy blue coat and a beret with the edelweiss symbol.

READER: Liliana lived as Anna's cousin in their two-room apartment in Warsaw for the next four years until they were liberated by the Soviet army in 1945. Janina obtained false identification papers for Liliana under Janina's maiden name. Anna, Janina, and Liliana lived in a constant state of fear. The neighbors kept asking questions about Liliana, but Anna and Janina always misled them. During the summer, Janina would take Anna and Liliana to the country.



READER: Anna and Janina also provided forged identity documents for several other Jews.

READER: Because of the bravery and ingenuity of Anna and her mother, Liliana and all of the Jews helped by Anna and Janina survived the Holocaust. After the war, Liliana immigrated to France.

TOGETHER: Let the story of Anna and Janina 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 rescuers like Anna and Janina 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, please visit our website at www.jfr.org or contact us at:

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