



Anna Firuta

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

THE  
JEWISH  
FOUNDATION  
*for  
the  
righteous*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
*April 2016*

**T**he Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) continues to fulfill its mission of honoring and supporting non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. In 2015 the JFR distributed almost \$1.2 million in direct support to some 500 aged and needy rescuers living in 20 countries.

I am pleased to inform you of new developments and continued successes in our work to honor those non-Jews who rescued Jews during the Holocaust. I want to thank you for helping the JFR to carry out its important work. Because of the support of individuals like you, the Foundation continues to meet the needs of these noble men and women and to educate others about the history of the Holocaust in general and rescue in particular.

**\$1.2 Million Distributed in Rescuer Support – Keeping a Commitment**

The JFR currently sends monthly financial assistance to more than 460 Righteous Gentiles in 20 countries. The Foundation remains committed to supporting these rescuers throughout the remainder of their lives. Over the past nineteen years, the Foundation has dispensed more than \$37 million to these aging heroes. As in past years, the JFR awarded a one-time grant of \$700 for the purchase of food at the Christmas holiday to each rescuer in Eastern Europe.

We would like to thank the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and individual donors for their support of this important program.

**Annual Dinner Honors Roman Kent**

The Foundation's annual New York Dinner was a beautiful and memorable evening. We presented the JFR's Recognition of Goodness Award to Roman Kent for his tireless work on behalf of Righteous Gentiles and Holocaust Survivors. As part of honoring Roman, the JFR produced a documentary on Roman, "A Survivor's Journey: The Life of Roman Kent." We urge you to watch this moving documentary on the JFR website at the following address: [www.jfr.org/kent](http://www.jfr.org/kent).

At the dinner, the JFR reunited Polish rescuer, Kyrstyna Jakubowska with Michael Hochberg, the Jewish child Krystyna and her family saved during the Holocaust. The JFR also produced a documentary on their story which can be viewed on the JFR website at [www.jfr.org/reunion2015](http://www.jfr.org/reunion2015).

**Goldman Award Presented at Dinner**

At the New York Dinner, the JFR presented the 2015 Robert I. Goldman Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education to Frances Kennedy from William T. Dwyer High School in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. Frances is a talented and gifted educator.

**Education Program – Preserving a Legacy**

The JFR held its annual Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University in June 2015. More than 525 teachers and Holocaust center staff – known as Alfred Lerner Fellows – have now

ANNA FIRUTA

OSTRA MOGILA, POLAND...  
SEPTEMBER 1942 – ANNA  
FIRUTA AND HER SON,  
BRONISLAW, HID JOAN BONDER,  
AND HER BROTHER, JOSEPH,  
FROM THE FALL OF 1942 UNTIL  
LIBERATION IN 1944. ANNA  
AND BRONISLAW PROVIDED  
NOT ONLY SHELTER AND FOOD,  
BUT ALSO FRIENDSHIP AND  
HOPE. JOAN AND JOSEPH WERE  
THE ONLY MEMBERS OF THEIR  
FAMILY TO SURVIVE THE WAR.

attended the Summer Institute, a five-day residential program that explores the entire chronology of the Holocaust as well as the challenges of teaching this complex history. We are fortunate to have world-renowned Holocaust scholars present at the Summer Institute each year. We also welcome participants from Eastern Europe through a program sponsored by the U.S. State Department. The JFR recognizes and appreciates the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) for its support of the Summer Institute for Teachers and the Advanced Seminar.

The JFR's Advanced Seminar is held each January over Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend and is open to our Alfred Lerner Fellows. Each January we bring four world-class scholars to lecture.

#### **Traveling Exhibit on Rescue and Rescuers Traveled Throughout the United States**

Following its opening at the United Nations in January 2013, the JFR exhibit, *Whoever Saves a Single Life... Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust* has traveled to venues across the United States. The traveling exhibit showcases some of those rare – but exceedingly important – instances where people fought to safeguard their Jewish fellow citizens during the Holocaust. This easy-to-install exhibit is ideal for small venues. Currently the Palm Beach County School District is traveling the exhibit through high schools in Palm Beach County. For information on the exhibit, please call Stanlee Stahl at 212.727.9955 or visit the JFR website, [www.jfr.org/exhibit](http://www.jfr.org/exhibit). The JFR recognizes and appreciates the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for their support of the exhibit.

#### **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program**

The *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* program, which twins a young person with a rescuer, continues to grow in popularity. The program allows families to connect this milestone in their child's life with Jewish history and to provide him or her with role models of humanity and social responsibility. If you would like more information about the *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* program, please call Dara Zadikow at 212.727.9955 or visit our website, [www.jfr.org](http://www.jfr.org).

#### **Stay Connected**

The Foundation's monthly e-newsletters – *At the JFR* and *From the JFR Library* – continue to keep JFR supporters informed and engaged. You can sign up for the e-newsletters on our website, [www.jfr.org](http://www.jfr.org). While you're on our website, be sure to watch our award-winning rescuer-survivor reunion documentaries. If you're looking for other ways to stay connected, please follow us on Twitter (@JFRDirector), like us on Facebook, and check out our blog, ([www.jfr.org/blog](http://www.jfr.org/blog)).

#### **Moving Forward**

The rescuers we support are in the twilight of their lives, so our obligation to be there for them takes on heightened importance with each passing day. So does our obligation to teach the history of the Holocaust, for the events continue to recede further into the past.

On behalf of the officers, the Board of Trustees, and the staff of the Foundation, thank you again for joining us in the important work of The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. We are able to make a difference in the lives of the rescuers and to preserve their legacy because of the support of thousands of people like you. As we move into 2016, I am pleased to let you know that the JFR continues to uphold its mission and to enlarge its impact. Your contribution is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to your continued involvement.

Sincerely,



Harvey Schulweis  
Chairman