

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



Katalin Kuron with her parents

THE
JEWISH
FOUNDATION
*for
the
righteous*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
April 2014

The 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 2013, the JFR distributed almost \$1.7 million in direct support to some 675 aged and needy rescuers living in 21 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.

\$1.7 Million Distributed in Rescuer Support

The JFR currently sends monthly financial assistance to some 600 Righteous Gentiles in 21 countries. The Foundation remains committed to supporting these rescuers throughout the remainder of their lives. Over the past eighteen years, the Foundation has dispensed more than \$34 million to these aging heroes.

In 2013, the JFR Board of Trustees voted to set the annual expenditure for rescuer support at \$1.7 million. Because of the increase in annual support for rescuers, the JFR awarded one-time grants to rescuers for food during the Christmas holiday season. These special grants ranged from \$900 to \$1,500 depending on the country, for a total expenditure of \$780,000. We would like to thank the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger, the Tikun Olam program of United Synagogue Youth, and individual donors for their support of this important program.

Annual Dinner Honors Peter A. Lefkin

The Foundation's annual New York Dinner was a beautiful and memorable evening, attracting 750 guests and raising \$750,000. We presented the JFR's Recognition of Goodness Award to Peter A. Lefkin, Senior Vice President, Government and External Affairs, Allianz Corporation of America.

At the dinner, the JFR reunited Polish rescuer, Czeslaw Polziec, with Leon Gersten, one of the five Jews the Polziec family hid for more than two years during the Holocaust. Czeslaw and Leon had not seen each other since 1944.

Goldman Award Presented at Dinner

At the New York Dinner, the JFR also presented the 2013 Robert I. Goldman Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education to Amy McDonald from Shades Valley High School in Birmingham, AL, a talented and gifted educator.

THE KURON
FAMILY

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY...
SUMMER 1944 — ISTVAN
KURON MANAGED A LARGE
TIMBER FACTORY THAT
WAS CLOSE TO THE JEWISH
CEMETERY. THE CEMETERY'S
CARETAKER WAS MR. BRIEF
WHO LIVED THERE WITH HIS
WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN,
GOLDY AND MORTON. WHEN
MR. BRIEF WAS TAKEN TO
A LABOR CAMP AND THE
SITUATION FOR JEWS BECAME
WORSE, ISTVAN AND HIS
FAMILY DECIDED TO HIDE MRS.
BRIEF AND HER CHILDREN.
THE KURON FAMILY BUILT AN
EARTHEN BUNKER WHERE THE
BRIEF FAMILY HID. WITH
THE EXCEPTION OF MR. BRIEF,
THEY ALL SURVIVED THE WAR.

Education Program Update

The JFR held its annual Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University in June 2013. Some 485 teachers and Holocaust center staff – known as Alfred Lerner Fellows – have now 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 Poland and Croatia through a program sponsored by the U.S. State Department. The JFR recognizes and appreciates the Claims Conference for its support of the Summer Institute for Teachers and the Advanced Seminar.

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* traveled to venues across the United States and was at the New York Supreme Court building in Manhattan for *Yom HaShoah*. The traveling exhibit showcases some of those rare – but exceedingly important – instances where people fought to safeguard their Jewish fellow citizens during the Holocaust. The exhibit is currently traveling to locations throughout the U.S. This easy-to-install exhibit is ideal for small venues. For booking information, please call Nina Loftspring at 212.727.9955 or visit the JFR website, www.jfr.org.

Young Associates Division (YAD)

Under the leadership of Jason Schulweis, the JFR's Young Associates Division is growing! The annual Mets game is April 27 and is expected to be another great success. YAD hosts events throughout the year, and members attend the JFR's annual dinner. Stay connected with YAD by visiting the YAD page on the JFR website, www.jfr.org.

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 Nina Loftspring at 212.727.9955 or visit our website, 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. 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.honoringtherighteous.wordpress.com.

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 2014, 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