

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, in part to 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 the rescuers in each generation, hoping that the memory of their strength will fortify us in the challenges we face in our own lives.

We remember Moses, who, with both vision and courage, led his people from slavery to freedom. We remember the Maccabees, who, with 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.

READER: When we commemorate these heroes of the past, we must also remember modern heroes who saved Jews during the Holocaust. During this dark time, there were those who had the courage to act – non-Jews who risked their lives, and often the lives of their families, to save Jews from death.

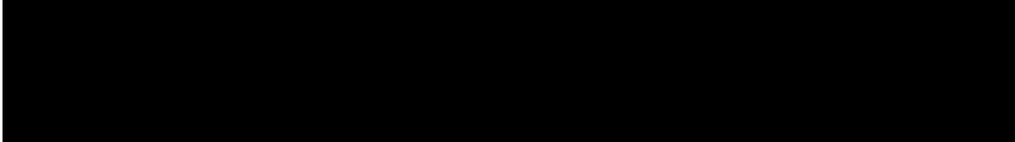
At our *Seder*, just as we tell of Moses leading our people to freedom, we should also tell of contemporary heroes and how they led Jews to their freedom more than sixty years ago.



Maria Farkas

READER: At this Passover *Seder* we recount the story of Maria and Zsuzsa Farkas. When the German army occupied Hungary in March 1944, Susan Jakob and her family were forced to move into a house with several other Jewish families. Before the occupation, Susan went to school with Maria and Zsuzsa Farkas and often visited the Farkas family. However, their parents were not friends. As the persecution of the Jews escalated, the relationship between the Jakob and Farkas families developed.

READER: The Jews were forced to abide by strict curfew laws and were not able to leave the house. The Farkas family loaned the Jakobs their own identity documents so that Dr. Jakob could obtain a *Schutzpass* (Swiss protective document) for his family. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Jakob was deported to a labor camp. Mr. Farkas smuggled food, cigarettes, and identity papers into the camp for Dr. Jakob and other Jews. Eventually, Dr. Jakob managed to return to his family in Budapest. During this time, the Germans and their Hungarian collaborators were rounding up and deporting civilians to perform forced labor in Germany. The day after he arrived home, Dr. Jakob and Susan, despite having false documents, were among those rounded up to be sent to labor camps. Mrs. Jakob remained in Budapest. On the



way to Germany, Dr. Jakob sent word to Mr. Farkas asking him to find a hiding place for himself and his daughter, Susan, if they were able to escape. Mr. Farkas sent a message back to Dr. Jakob offering his home.

READER: Dr. Jakob and Susan escaped and returned to the Farkas home in Budapest. At that time, the Farkas family was already hiding two other Jewish women. Maria Farkas gave her mother's identity documents to Mrs. Jakob, enabling her to make it safely to the Farkas home. These five Jews lived with the Farkas family until the city was liberated in January 1945. Today, Maria and her sister Zsuzsa are both in their late 70s and live in Budapest

READER: Let the story of Maria and Zsuzsa Farkas inspire us to do good when the opportunity arises.

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 look out for the well-being of our neighbors.

READER: Second, let us 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 chose to act differently. 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 Jews, let us ensure that the stories of those non-Jews who rescued Jews during the Holocaust are remembered and passed down to our children and our children's children.

READER: This year we pray for peace in Jerusalem and the entire world.

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

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