

HAGGADAH SUPPLEMENT

The following should be read after singing Dayvenu.

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 rising.

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, who interceded 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.



Hasmik and Tigran Tashtshiyen

READER: At this Passover *Seder* we recount the story of Hasmik Tashtshiyen and her brother, Tigran. In 1941, the Germans occupied Simferopol, a resort town in the Ukraine. They ordered all Jews to register with Nazi authorities and to wear arm bands displaying the Star of David. Many Jews were shot in sporadic acts of violence, including the grandparents of Rita and Anatoly Golberg, two children whose family lived in the town.

Their mother, Eugenia, knew that her children would meet the same fate as their grandparents and searched for non-Jews who might hide them. She had to look no further than her next door neighbors, the Tashtshiyen family.

READER: Having escaped genocide themselves decades earlier in Armenia, the Tashtshiyans understood the dire circumstances facing the Golberg family and immediately offered to take in the two Jewish children. Hasmik and Tigran, the Tashtshiyans children, built hiding places for Rita and Anatoly in the attic, the basement, and the shed. They also shared their food and belongings with the two Jewish children, who stayed with the Tashtshiyans until April 1944, when Simferopol was liberated by the Soviet Army.

Eugenia Golberg survived the war and reunited with her children when it ended. Anatoly passed away in 1975. Rita is in her 60s and still lives in Simferopol. She and her husband and their three daughters are still in contact with Hasmik and Tigran. Hasmik is in her 70s and lives in Tairov, Armenia. Tigran is also in his 70s and lives in Erevan, the capital of Armenia.

READER: Let the story of Hasmik and Tigran Tashtshiyans 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.

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 Hasmik and Tigran Tashtshiyans, please visit our website at www.jfr.org or contact us at:

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