

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 the heroic rescuers in each generation, hoping that the memory of their strength will 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 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.



Ondrej Sulaj

READER: At this Passover *Seder* we recount the story of Ondrej Sulaj. From April 1942 until August 1944, Harry Dash and his parents, Rudolph and Margit, were prisoners in the Novaky labor camp in central Slovakia. At the end of August 1944, during the Slovak uprising, the Dash family managed to escape from the camp. Unfortunately their freedom was short-lived as the Germans quickly crushed the uprising and began rounding up the Jews.

Harry and his parents found temporary shelter in the mountains. The local peasants, however, were afraid to help Jews for fear of German reprisals. The Dash family was in desperate need of food and shelter. One day they met a poor peasant family – Ondrej Sulaj, his wife Maria, who was expecting their second child in weeks, and their young daughter. Without hesitation, Ondrej and Maria offered to help Harry and his parents. Under the cover of darkness, Ondrej took the Dash family to his one-room home.

READER: Harry and his parents lived with Ondrej and his family on their small farm until the area was liberated. They all survived the war. Many years later, when Harry Dash asked Ondrej and Maria why they jeopardized their own lives and those of their two children in order to save complete strangers, their answer was simple: “We saw that you had nowhere to go.”

Harry’s father Rudolph died in 1949 as a result of injuries incurred during the war, and Harry and his mother moved to Israel. As Harry wrote in his testimony to Yad Vashem, “Had it not been for Ondrej and Maria, I am positive we would not have survived.” Harry has remained in contact with Ondrej and his family. Maria died several years ago. Ondrej is in his 90s and continues to live in Ceske Brezovo, Slovakia.

READER: Let the story of Ondrej Sulaj 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 Ondrej Sulaj,
please visit our website at www.jfr.org or contact us at:*