



Helena Blaszczyk

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

THE  
JEWISH  
FOUNDATION  
*for  
the  
righteous*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
*April 2015*

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 2014 the JFR distributed almost \$1.7 million in direct support to some 600 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 – Keeping a Commitment**

The JFR currently sends monthly financial assistance to more than 525 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 \$36 million to these aging heroes. As in past years, the JFR awarded a one-time grant for the purchase of food at the Christmas holiday.

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

**Annual Dinner Honors Iris and Saul Katz**

The Foundation's annual New York dinner was a beautiful and memorable evening, attracting more than 950 guests and raising almost \$1.3 million. We presented the JFR's Recognition of Goodness Award to Iris and Saul Katz for their philanthropic good deeds, for improving the lives of New Yorkers, and for their commitment to the Righteous and to Holocaust education.

At the dinner, the JFR reunited Polish rescuer, Helena Weglowska with Mira Wexler and Sylvia Weinstein, two of the six Jews, Helena and her family saved during the Holocaust. Helena, Mira, and Sylvia had not seen each other since 1944.

At the New York dinner, the JFR also presented the 2014 Robert I. Goldman Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education to Jill Tejada, an outstanding teacher, from Livingston High School in Livingston, NJ.

**Education Program Update**

The JFR held its annual Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University in June 2014. More than 500 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

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CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND...  
1942 – HELENA AND HER  
BROTHER STEFAN, BOTH  
MEMBERS OF THE POLISH  
UNDERGROUND, MADE A  
HIDING PLACE IN THEIR TWO-  
ROOM HOME WHERE THEY  
HID FOUR JEWS BEHIND A  
FALSE WALL. THIS IS WHERE  
THE JEWS LIVED FOR MORE  
THAN THREE YEARS UNTIL  
LIBERATION. HELENA, STEFAN,  
AND THEIR MOTHER SHARED  
THEIR HOME WITH A GERMAN  
OFFICER – THEY LIVED IN  
ONE ROOM, HE OCCUPIED THE  
OTHER. HELENA AND STEFAN  
WERE DENOUNCED, ARRESTED,  
AND TORTURED BUT NEVER  
BETRAYED THE JEWS THAT  
WERE HIDING IN THEIR HOME.

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.

#### **Traveling Exhibit on Rescue 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. 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 Stanlee Stahl at 212.727.9955 or visit the JFR website, [www.jfr.org](http://www.jfr.org).

#### **Young Associates Division (YAD)**

Under the leadership of Jason Schulweis, the JFR's Young Associates Division is growing! The 2015 annual Mets game is May 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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 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) – it has a new look! 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 2015, 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