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HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR AND RESCUER FROM POLAND WILL REUNITE AT NEW YORK’S JFK

THE JEWISH FOUNDATION FOR THE RIGHTEOUS WILL BRING TOGETHER SURVIVOR AND THE WOMAN WHO SAVED HIM DURING WORLD WAR II, COINCIDING WITH THE MIRACLE OF CHANUKAH

NEW YORK – A Holocaust survivor from Haifa, Israel, will be reunited with his rescuer on Wednesday, December 2, at JFK International Airport in New York. The Jakubowski family rescued Michael Hochberg 68 years ago during the Holocaust.

Michael Hochberg and rescuer, Krystyna Jakubowska of Poland, will be brought together by The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous.

For more than two years, Michael Hochberg was kept hidden from the Germans by Krystyna Jakubowska’s mother, Rozalia, and her brother and sisters in their family home. Despite the risk involved the Jakubowski family agreed to take him in.

Michael was not allowed to leave the Jakubowski apartment for fear of being denounced as a Jew. The only time he went outside was in the evening when it was too dark for anyone to see him. When it was deemed safe, Krystyna would go out on the balcony of their apartment with Michael. It was from this balcony that Michael saw the flames of the Warsaw Ghetto burning in April 1943.

In August 1944, after the Polish Uprising, the Germans forcibly marched the entire civilian population of Warsaw out of the city. Rozalia Jakubowska refused to abandon Michael and took him with her family as they left Warsaw. Jozef Jakubowski, a member of the Polish Home Army, was killed in the Polish Uprising in August 1944. His wife, Rozalia, passed away that Christmas eve. Michael’s parents were also killed in the ghetto, leaving Krystyna responsible for the full-time care of Michael.

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JFR REUNION 2015

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Michael remained with Krystyna until they were liberated by the Soviet army in 1945.

Today, Michael lives in Haifa, Israel, and Krystyna Jakubowska continues to live in Warsaw, Poland.

“Though we have worked with many survivors and their rescuers over the years, I cease to be amazed by the bravery of the thousands of Christian rescuers who put their risked their lives to save Jews from death,” said JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl. “This year, the reunion takes place just days before the beginning of Hanukkah, a significant coincidence as Hanukkah is the story of survival and miracles. We are eternally grateful for these Righteous Gentiles, and through our work, hope to share their inspirational stories,” she added.

As it moves forward, the JFR continues its work of providing monthly financial assistance to some 500 aged and needy Righteous Gentiles, living in 20 countries. Since its founding, the JFR has provided more than $36 million to aged and needy rescuers—helping to repay a debt

of gratitude on behalf of the Jewish people to these noble men and women. Its Holocaust teacher education program is thriving and has become a standard for teaching the history of the Holocaust and educating teachers and students about the significance of the Righteous as moral and ethical exemplars. Visit [www.JFR.org](http://www.JFR.org).

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