



Dervis Korkut

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

THE  
JEWISH  
FOUNDATION  
*for  
the  
righteous*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT  
*April 2020*

DERVIS  
KORKUT

SARAJEVO, CROATIA...1942

— DERVIS KORKUT AND HIS WIFE, SERVET, WERE ETHNIC ALBANIAN MUSLIMS WHO LIVED IN SARAJEVO. AS CHIEF LIBRARIAN AT THE BOSNIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM, DERVIS TOOK AND HID THE FOURTEENTH-CENTURY SARAJEVO HAGGADAH TO PROTECT IT FROM THE GERMAN OCCUPATION FORCES. DERVIS AND SERVET ALSO HID AND CARED FOR MIRA PAPOS, A YOUNG JEWISH WOMAN WHOSE PARENTS HAD BEEN MURDERED. THEY DRESSED MIRA IN TRADITIONAL MUSLIM CLOTHES AND TOLD PEOPLE SHE HAD BEEN HIRED TO CARE FOR THEIR BABY. MIRA STAYED WITH THE KORKUT FAMILY UNTIL SHE WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN FALSE PAPERS, WHICH ALLOWED HER TO PASS AS A NON-JEW FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WAR.

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 2019, the JFR distributed more than \$1 million in direct support to more than 275 aged and needy rescuers living in 18 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.

With the rise in antisemitic incidents across the United States, the work of The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) is more important than ever. We support aged and needy non-Jewish rescuers of Jews who stood up to antisemitism during the Holocaust. Our education program provides teachers with the knowledge and tools to teach about antisemitism and the history of the Holocaust in their classrooms.

**\$1 Million Distributed in Rescuer Support – Keeping a Commitment**

In 2019, the JFR sent monthly financial assistance to more than 275 Righteous Gentiles in 18 countries. The Foundation remains committed to supporting these rescuers throughout the remainder of their lives. Over the past twenty-eight years, the Foundation has dispensed more than \$41 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 to all JFR-supported rescuers. The success of this program enabled the JFR to send each rescuer \$1,750 in December 2019. We thank you for your support of this program!

**JFR Honors and Celebrates Polish Righteous in Warsaw, Poland**

A highlight of the year was the JFR's annual luncheon for Polish Righteous in Warsaw. Our luncheon was held at POLIN – The Museum of the History of Polish Jews, on Sunday, September 8, 2019. This year we celebrated some thirty rescuers and their guests. JFR Executive Vice President, Stanlee Stahl, welcomed everyone. At the luncheon, Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland, and Stanlee Stahl announced that the JFR would be awarding the Warsaw Kosher Food Pantry funds enabling the Food Pantry to provide each Righteous in Warsaw with a monthly food package.

**Annual Event Honors Yolanda and Raymond Kunz**

The Foundation's annual New York event was a beautiful and memorable evening. We presented the JFR's Recognition of Goodness Award to Yolanda and Raymond Kunz for their philanthropic good deeds, for their commitment to the Righteous and to Holocaust education.

At the dinner, the JFR screened a documentary telling the story of Melpomeni Gianopoulou, a Righteous Gentile from Veria, Greece. The JFR reunited Melpomeni with Sara and Yossi

Mordechai, two of the Jewish children she saved during the Holocaust. The reunion was held in Jerusalem in November 2019. The link to the documentary is [www.jfr.org/reunion2019/](http://www.jfr.org/reunion2019/).

#### **Goldman Award Presented at Dinner**

The JFR presented the 2019 Robert I. Goldman Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education to Patricia Skelton. Tricia, as she likes to be called, is a sixth grade English Language Arts and History teacher at the Opelika Middle School, in Opelika, Alabama.

#### **Education Program – Preserving a Legacy**

The JFR held its annual Summer Institute for Teachers at Columbia University in June 2019. Some 650 teachers and Holocaust center staff – known as Alfred Lerner Fellows – have now attended the Summer Institute, a six-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 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.

#### **Traveling Exhibit on Rescue and Rescuers Traveled Throughout the United States**

Following its opening at the United Nations, the JFR exhibit, *Whoever Saves a Single Life... Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust* has traveled to venues across the United States. This easy-to-install exhibit is ideal for small venues. The exhibit will be on display at the Selby Library of Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources in Sarasota, FL through April 30, 2020. For information on bringing the JFR exhibit to your community, please email the JFR at [jfr@jfr.org](mailto:jfr@jfr.org) or visit the JFR website, [www.jfr.org/exhibit](http://www.jfr.org/exhibit).

#### **Thank You to the Claims Conference**

We would like to thank the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) for their support of our rescuer support and education programs.

#### **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). If you are looking for other ways to stay connected, please follow us on Twitter @JFRDirector, like us on Facebook, check out our blog at [www.jfr.org/blog](http://www.jfr.org/blog), and visit us on Instagram at [instagram.com/jfr\\_photos](https://www.instagram.com/jfr_photos).

#### **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, as these 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 people like you. As we move into 2020, 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