



Abbé René de Naurois

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

THE
JEWISH
FOUNDATION
*for
the
righteous*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

March 2021

2020 was challenging for all, including The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) and for the two groups that the JFR supports – Righteous Gentiles and teachers. Yet, through the challenges, the fear, and the uncertainty of this past year, I see how resilient we are and can be.

Each of us navigated a new reality in 2020. I thank each of you for your continued support of the work of The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. Please know, your financial assistance is valued and appreciated. 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.

The JFR, like most organizations, accommodated to the new reality of working during a pandemic. Staff worked remotely; meetings were held on Zoom. We would not hold an annual benefit, or our annual luncheon for Righteous Gentiles in Warsaw, Poland. Staff would not conduct home visits to rescuers, participate in public programs, or go into classrooms to teach about the rescue of Jews during the Holocaust.

The rescuers, for the most part were quarantined, many were alone. The JFR continued to reach out to them through email, through telephone calls (in many instances with a translator), and through postal mail – when airmail service was available. Last spring Poland ceased airmail service with the United States, as did other countries in Eastern Europe. JFR staff did its best to let these men and women, who more than 75 years ago risked their lives and often the lives of their families to save Jews during the Holocaust, know that they have not been forgotten or abandoned.

Our teachers had to learn how to teach remotely, to teach classes with students in the classroom and online, to revise lesson plans, to work with students who did not have computers or internet at home.

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

For the last twenty-nine years, I have had the honor and privilege of leading The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR). Over the years, the JFR has provided financial support to more than 3,000 Righteous Gentiles living in some 34 countries. At the beginning of 2020, the JFR was providing monthly financial support to 228 Righteous Gentiles living in 18 countries. During the year, we were notified of the deaths of 35 JFR-supported rescuers.

In 2020, our primary concern was insuring that the rescuers received their funds. I am pleased to report that the JFR during 2020 continued to fulfill its mission of honoring and supporting non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. In 2020, the

ABBÉ RENÉ
DE NAUROIS
MARSEILLES, FRANCE...
SUMMER 1941 –
THE ABBÉ RENÉ DE
NAUROIS JOINED THE
FRENCH RESISTANCE
IN 1941 AND HELPED
SMUGGLE JEWS OUT OF
FRANCE AND INTO SPAIN.
HE PROVIDED FALSE
PAPERS AND REFUGE TO
THOSE JEWS NEEDING
ASSISTANCE. HE HID
JEWS WITH FAMILIES IN
THE MOUNTAINS AND IN
CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS.
WANTED BY THE GESTAPO,
HE FLED FRANCE IN
1942 AND JOINED THE
FREE FRENCH. THE
ABBÉ RETURNED WITH
GENERAL DE GAULLE
DURING THE ALLIED
INVASION AT NORMANDY.

JFR distributed \$1 million in direct support to 228 aged and needy rescuers. 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. Our #GivingTuesday Campaign raised more than \$25,000 in support of our Christmas holiday food program! The success of this program enabled the JFR to send each rescuer a special award of \$1,750 in December 2020 for the purchase of food. We thank you for your support of this program!

As we are 75 years since the end of the Holocaust, the number of Righteous Gentiles the JFR is supporting has decreased. Today, the JFR is sending monthly financial assistance to 191 rescuers living in 17 countries. The JFR is continuing its commitment to the rescuers – to provide monthly financial support until they pass away.

Education Program – Preserving a Legacy

At this juncture, the JFR will be augmenting its nationally acclaimed Holocaust teacher education program. Our education program provides teachers with the knowledge and tools to teach about both the history of antisemitism and the history of the Holocaust in their classrooms.

The JFR's Summer Institute for Teachers and European Study Program to Germany and Poland were postponed. The JFR's Advanced Seminar, which is held each January over Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend, was held in January 2020. The Advanced Seminar brings together world-class scholars to lecture and to delve in-depth into specific aspects of the Holocaust. The 2020 Advanced Seminar focused on gaining a deeper understanding of anti-Judaism and antisemitism, how to teach to this difficult subject in the classroom, and how to respond to instances of hate in the classroom.

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. While you are on our website, be sure to watch our award-winning rescuer-survivor reunion documentaries. 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, 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 thousands of people like you. As we move into 2021, our hope is a return to some degree of normalcy.

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