

THE JEWISH FOUNDATION *for the righteous*

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

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.

Nevertheless, we also give thanks for those in every generation who came forward to lead our people out of the darkness. We recognize heroic rescuers from every generation, hoping that the memory of their strength will fortify us if confronted with similar evil.

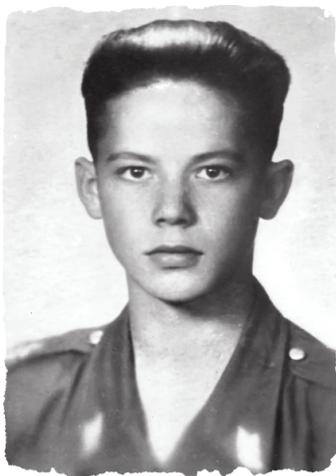
READER: We remember Moses, who, with both vision and courage, led his people from slavery to freedom. We remember the Maccabees, whose strength and determination saved the Temple and Jewish life in the Land of Israel. We remember Esther, who interceded to save fellow Jews from destruction.

While we commemorate the heroes of the past, we also remember modern heroes who saved Jews from the Holocaust.

TOGETHER: 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 more than eighty years ago.

READER: At this Passover Seder, we recount the story of the Lisowski family who saved Jews in Poland.

READER: Before the outbreak of World War II, the Lisowski family lived in the village of Henrykow located close to Warsaw. Witold, the youngest of three sons, lived with his widowed mother, Zofia. Zofia managed a restaurant. In the 1930s, the Inwentarz family, who was Jewish, moved into the neighborhood. Witold became friends with the Inwentarz's son, Jozef, who was called "Dudek."



Witold Lisowski

In 1941, the Germans ordered the Jews of Henrykow to move to the ghetto in Ludwisin. Witold's older brother, Jan, brought food and other necessities to the Inwentarz family. In October 1942, the Germans liquidated the ghetto and the Jews were deported to the Treblinka killing center. Dudek escaped from the transport. He wandered for many days and managed to return to Henrykow. Exhausted and starving, he met Witold. Witold carried Dudek to his home. Witold and Zofia took care of Dudek and made a hiding place for him in the attic.

READER: Dudek stayed with Witold and Zofia until April 1944, when the neighbors grew suspicious. Witold and his mother moved Dudek to a hiding place in the nearby woods. Zofia prepared food which Witold would bring to Dudek. Dudek remained in his hiding place in the woods until the area was liberated by the Soviet army in September 1944.

READER: Dudek, Witold, Jan, and Zofia survived the Holocaust. Witold is 93 and lives in Warsaw.

TOGETHER: Let the story of Witold and his family inspire us to do right when faced with evil.

READER: How can we pass this spirit on to future generations?

READER: Let us honor rescuers like Witold by learning from his deeds and dedicating ourselves anew to fulfilling the traditional Jewish commandment to be responsible for the safety and well-being of our neighbors.

READER: Let us also honor these rescuers by dedicating ourselves to assisting those among them who need our help. We must ensure that these heroes live out their remaining years in dignity – with adequate food, medicine, and housing. We each have the ability to make an enormous difference in the lives of these noble men and women.

READER: Tonight, let us commit to learning the stories of these righteous men and women who saved thousands of Jews 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 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.

About The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous

The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR) was established in 1986 by Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis to fulfill the traditional Jewish commitment to *hakarat hatov*, the searching out and recognition of goodness. The JFR honors and supports Righteous Gentiles, non-Jews, who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The Foundation provides monthly support to aged and needy rescuers in 10 countries. Through its national education program, the Foundation also preserves the legacy of the Righteous and educates teachers and students about the history of the Holocaust.

Since its founding, the JFR has distributed more than \$46.5 million to aged and needy rescuers. We must continue to thank and support these extraordinary individuals who were the lone lights in the darkness.

In sharing the stories of the Righteous, we strive not only to honor their place in history, but also to stress the importance of their example for these times. These men and women remind us that in the midst of unspeakable evil, each human being has the capacity to act humanely and to make a difference, a lesson that is often eclipsed by the legacy of hatred, brutality, and suffering that dominates contemplation of the Holocaust.

For more information about the work of The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous or to learn about other rescuers like Witold, please visit our website at www.jfr.org or contact us at the address listed below.