

Advertisements

Advertisements

**JOIN OUR NETWORK**  
**EVERY**  
 Jew.com The Chosen Network

**JewishJournal.com**

Not yet a member? Register now.

Username

Password

**LOGIN**

**PERFECT FOR CHANUKAH**  
**2009 RECORD-SETTERS EDITION**  
**JEWISH MAJOR LEAGUERS CARD SET**  
 jewishmajorleaguers.org

October 20, 2009 7:44 pm PDT

[Advertise](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Email Newsletter](#) | [Archive Search](#) |

**SEARCH**

HOME

**Community Calendar**

Arts

Calendar

Education

Food

Israel

Kids and Teens

Los Angeles

Community

Circuit

Community Briefs

Obituaries

Opinion

Religion

Singles

Sports

Special Sections

Torah Portion

Nation

World

Archive

Blogs

Celebrations/Simchas

Directories

Multimedia

Reader Forums

Newspaper

Advertisements

**Community Briefs**

September 9, 2009

**Emergency Humanitarian Mission to Ukraine**

BY JANE ULMAN

Follow JewishJournal.com on [twitter](#) 1 retweet

Zane Buzby, co-founder of The Survivor Mitzvah Project, is spearheading a 14-day whirlwind emergency humanitarian mission to central Ukraine in December to bring urgently needed financial aid to more than 70 elderly, impoverished and forgotten Jewish Holocaust survivors.

"Amazingly, these people survived the Holocaust, but I'm not sure they can make it through this winter," said Buzby, a sitcom director and former actress, whose grass-roots nonprofit seeks to provide desperately needed cash — as well as equally critical friendship — to more than 1,000 survivors in Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

Buzby hopes to raise \$100,000 to distribute to survivors on this mission. Most are living on pensions of about \$80 a month, insufficient to cover even the cost of heating fuel. Buzby said the economic crisis has had a devastating impact on their already precarious existence.

Buzby plans to visit survivors in approximately 25 cities and villages, depending on weather and road conditions. On this mission, ideally the first of four, she is focusing on assisting the oldest and most destitute survivors. She will spend New Year's Eve, for example, in the village of Korsun with Tzal Goisman, 87, a survivor who fought in the Battle of Stalingrad and still has shrapnel in his leg.



Survivor Mitzvah Project co-founder Zane Buzby, right, and Luidmila Petrovna, her guide and translator, on a trip to assist survivors in Belarus in 2007.



Ikhil Vigdorovich, who is in his late 80s or early 90s, lives in Uman. He writes, "I fought the Nazis from the first to the last day of the war, total 1,418 days and nights. I lost my arm close to the end of the war." He is desperate to locate his relatives

Another survivor on her itinerary is Semyon Kroch, 88, who lives in Kolomeyo, and who serves as cantor of his small shul. Kroch, who relies on multiple medications, none of which he can afford, recently fell, seriously injuring himself. He writes, "I am a lonely man with a small pension. I ask God in my prayers to save his people."

Buzby will also film the expedition for The Survivor Mitzvah Project archive, assisted by Noam Osband, a doctoral student in visual anthropology; Robyn Roth, who has worked with the organization for two years; and Luidmila Petrovna, a non-Jewish English teacher from Belarus, who serves as her "boot on the ground," translator and guide.

The Survivor Mitzvah Project, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, was founded in 2002 by Buzby. While she raised \$225,000 in 2008, mostly in small donations, she said the organization needs at least six times that amount annually to meet the survivors' most basic needs of food, medicine, heat and shelter.

Buzby calls these survivors "the unluckiest generation," not only because the Nazis decimated their lives, but also because they have endured continual hardships, including Soviet labor camps, Chernobyl and the fall of Communism, which wiped out their savings.

According to Buzby, most American Jews assume that the survivors' needs are being adequately addressed, but the fact is that none of The Survivor Mitzvah Project recipients have received funds from the Conference on

[Email](#) | [Print](#) | [Text - Text +](#)

Advertisements

**"SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S PRODUCTION OF THE YEAR."**  
 — Bob Verini, Variety

**WINNER!**  
 1999 TONY AWARDS®  
 FOR BEST BOOK  
 AND BEST MUSIC

**PARADE**  
 A MUSICAL

Mark Taper Forum  
 Now – November 15,  
 2009

**Related**

ALSO BY JANE ULMAN

- [Sun Blessing After 28 Years](#)
- [Temple Akiba buzz grows with Culver City popularity](#)
- [Teriton tenants win battle to stay in historic apartment complex](#)
- [Rebuilding lives, one broken tile at a time](#)
- [Disco Rabbi, Colin Powell Among Caring Institute Honorees](#)
- [Latino Pentecostals, Jews Celebrate Sukkot](#)
- [Priest's Quest Unearths Nazi Death](#)

THE JEWISH JOURNAL and HILLSIDE MEMORIAL PARK and MORTUARY

PROUDLY PRESENT

# WOMEN RABBIS

TRAILBLAZERS & INNOVATORS

WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 21, 2009  
7:30PM

MAY California JEWISHLA.ORG

THINK OF IT AS GPS FOR THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

in America—Sirota and Felsher, from Baltimore—to leave them his personal belongings. Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, as they don't meet that organization's narrow definition of a survivor. Additionally, larger Jewish organizations have cut back aid, leaving survivors with minimal and sporadic non-monetary assistance, if anything.

"Some of these people are 98 years old," Buzby said. "This is our last opportunity to help them."

For more information about The Survivor Mitzvah Project or to donate, call (800) 905-6160 or visit [survivormitzvah.org](http://survivormitzvah.org).

**Related Stories:**

Americans don't forget Eastern Europe's survivors  
Meet the multitalented, endlessly energetic Zane Buzby  
These are the faces of the fighters, the survivors

Advertisement

**Sit'n Sleep**  
YOUR MATTRESS SUPERSTORE

Committed to Your **Complete Satisfaction**

Get Free Delivery

Serta Sealy MIRALUX

**Tags and Sharing**

TAGS

SHARE THIS STORY

del.icio.us Digg Facebook  
Google+ Reddit StumbleUpon  
Technorati YahooMyWeb

EMAIL

Tell a friend about this story by email

**Discussion**

We welcome your feedback. Please share your views and insight in [The Jewish Journal Reader Forums](#).

PRIVACY POLICY

Your information will not be shared or sold without your consent. [Get all the details.](#)

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

# EVERY Jew.com

*The Chosen Network of the Jewish World*

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE JEWISH JOURNAL MEDIA GROUP

- o Home
- o Arts
- o Calendar
- o Education
- o Food
- o Israel

- o Kids and Teens
- o Los Angeles
- o Obituaries
- o Opinion
- o Singles
- o Sports

- o Torah Portion
- o U.S.
- o World

**Newspaper**

Serving a community of 600,000, The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles is the largest Jewish weekly outside New York City. Our award-winning paper reaches over 150,000 educated, involved and affluent readers each week. [Subscribe here.](#)

© Copyright 2009 The Jewish Journal and JewishJournal.com  
All rights reserved. JewishJournal.com is hosted by [Nexcess.net](#).  
Homepage design by [Koret Communications](#).  
Widgets by [Mijits](#). Site construction by [Hop Studios](#).

**Sites**

- o [Master Chorale Program Honors Pearl](#)
- o [Book for Kids Answers Cancer Questions](#)
- o [\\$1 Million Warrant Issued for Iranian Jewish Man Wanted for Attempted Murder](#)

**Advertisements**

All the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center

LOEWS Santa Monica Center

The Broad Stage

The Edge

**Why schlep to New York when you can see The Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society in Santa Monica?**

The Broad Stage

- o [Current Edition](#)
- o [Archive](#)
- o [Contact Us](#)
- o [FAQ](#)
- o [Privacy Policy](#)
- o [Terms of Service](#)
- o [Site Map](#)
- o [Advertise](#)