



The Survivor Mitzvah Project

The Power of Passover – The Importance of Yom HaShoah

For generations, Jewish families have shared the ancient story of freedom and rebirth at their Seder tables. We are asked to experience our history as memory, as if we ourselves were slaves in Egypt, in order to fully appreciate our freedom.

Yom HaShoah is a day of remembrance for those who perished in the Holocaust. It is also an opportunity to remember those who survived.

Holocaust Survivors do not have to go back to ancient times to imagine being enslaved – their own personal experiences are impossible to forget.

“When the war ended, we were hungry. I received a lesson from my mother that I have remembered my whole life. I had never seen Matzoh and she placed a small piece in my hand, saying that one day long ago we were slaves. Forty years in the desert and there was no bread. We listened to our mother’s dear, tranquil voice for a long time. And then the hunger was gone. I ate a bite and felt full. Mother hid a tiny piece in a drawer, like a talisman, and believed that every time, taken out on Pesach, it would fill us with the knowledge that if they survived, then so will we. And so I survived and am writing to you.”

- Manya, Grodno, Belarus

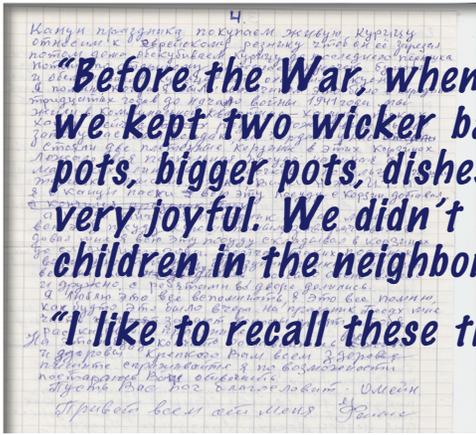


Women and children liberated from train headed to death camps.



“After the War, little by little, and very privately, we began to observe the holidays again. Our mother would mix flour and water in a skillet using a fork to make little holes in the middle, and we had matzo!”

- Isaak, Berdichev, Ukraine



“Before the War, when I was a little boy, mother sent me to the attic where we kept two wicker baskets with all our Passover kitchenware: small clay pots, bigger pots, dishes, spoons, forks, knives, etc. I recall the holiday to be very joyful. We didn’t have enough food, but shared what little we had with children in the neighborhood.”

“I like to recall these things. I remember everything as if it was yesterday.”
- Fima, Kremenchug, Ukraine

At Passover we relive our history and journey from bondage to freedom. We are asked to remember that we were once strangers in a strange land and must show kindness and compassion to others. We are asked to help repair the world.

On Yom HaShoah, as we remember those who perished in the Holocaust, let us also remember those who survived, who are alone with no one to care for them.

There are thousands of survivors still suffering and in desperate need of help.

Repair the world. Bring them food and medicine by making a special Passover/Yom HaShoah donation so that no Holocaust survivor will ever suffer again or be hungry, neglected or forgotten.

***“It is because we were strangers,
we are commanded to take up the cause of the stranger.
It is because we were outsiders,
we have a visceral response when we see people marginalized.
It is because we know the face of poverty,
we tell all who are hungry to come and eat.
In this way, the past becomes present and our story becomes one.”***

Rabbi Will Berkovitz

Donate Online at survivormitzvah.org or by check:

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The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit public charity.

*You can also donate to support The Survivor Mitzvah Project’s
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