



The Survivor Mitzvah Project

*I am 102 years old
and I am teetering on the edge*

Dvoira Itzkovna is one of our oldest survivors, born in 1920. At age 102, she suffers from high blood pressure and heart failure. She used your generous donations to buy expensive medicine and heating fuel. She is the sole survivor of her family, whom she misses more and more as the years pass.

Like all our survivors, Dvoira Itzkovna is also thankful that her story, letters and photographs will be preserved for future generations in [The Survivor Mitzvah Project's Holocaust Educational Archive](#).

When she received our last letter she wrote:

"I haven't heard such kindhearted words in a long time, and I am very thankful for your warmth and patience in comforting the hearts of elderly and lonely people. Wishing you all the best, good health, and, once again, good health! You are performing a very important and compassionate deed for the history of humanity. May God never let anything like what happened to us, happen again."

Her story:

"I lost my entire family. They perished at the hands of the Germans. My neighbors told me their deaths were dreadful and excruciating. They endured starvation, cold, persecution, humiliation, and torture.

It is impossible for me to describe all the details because I cannot bear to recount that horror again. It was an indescribable and terrible tragedy. In one moment, I lost my father, mother, sister, and brother — the nearest and dearest people I had. All murdered by the Nazis. I lost what was most precious to me. I was left completely alone. Our house was demolished. I couldn't even find the

place where it stood.

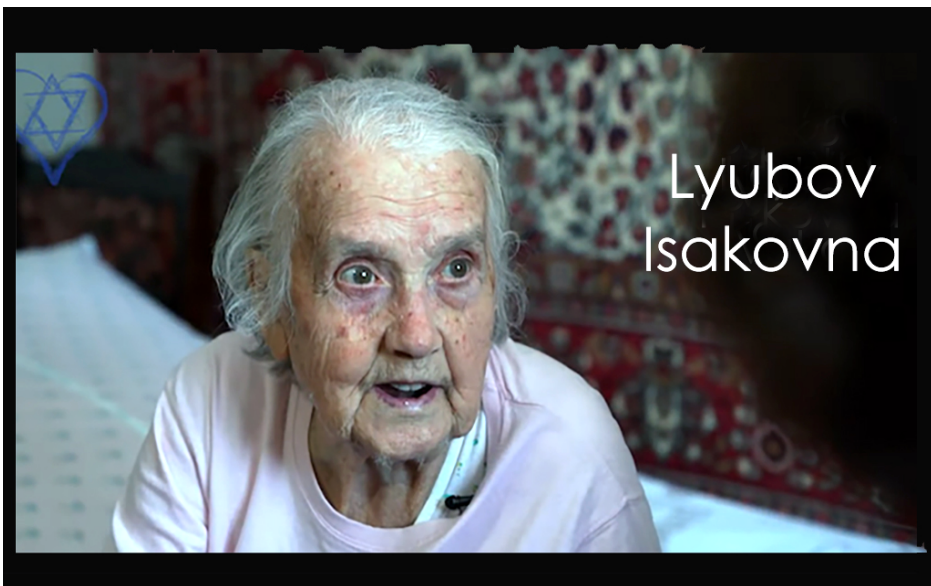
My husband died a long time ago. Recently I buried my son who died at the age of 59. He died from heart failure. His wife died a year earlier, at age 45. Four years ago, my daughter suffered a series of strokes. Her husband died of leukemia. She has been bedridden for four years, but I am still living. It is very painful to know your child is suffering and you can't do anything about it.

I apologize for writing about these gruesome events in my life, but I had to tell someone because I am teetering on the edge. I have no one else to share it with or talk to. I live alone. Before my son's death, he was very sick and could not work. We lived on my pension. I feel embarrassed to burden you with my problems, but I can't escape from them. I have no strength left to tolerate the loss of dear and near ones.

Once again, thank you so much for your compassion and caring about our misfortunes. I am very lonely here.

Your Dvoira"





HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY

Lyubov Isakovna!

We also wish a very happy, healthy 100th birthday on April 5, 2022, to Lyubov Isakovna. We interviewed her for SMP's Holocaust Educational Archive during our SMP Emergency Aid Expedition to Moldova and Transnistria in 2018. **This stunning interview about loss, hardship, terror, escape, and heartbreak can be viewed on our website at www.survivormitzvah.org on our Archive page.**

This is one a rare account of the Kodyma death camp in Ukraine, "a camp from which no one returned." Her sister and brother-in-law died there along with thousands of others. On the months-long "death march" from Moldova to Ukraine to reach Kodyma camp, Lyubov carried her 5-year-old niece who was dying of starvation and could no longer walk. The child died in her arms and the Romanian guards forced her to leave her young niece's body on the road, like so much garbage – something that haunts Lyubov to this day. In her interview she also talks about the blatant Anti-Semitism in Moldova today, telling us that when people in her town discovered she was Jewish, they stopped speaking to her. It's an incredible interview, not only for its historical value, but because you will meet a lovely woman who is still optimistic even after all she has been through.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

Your donations during the Covid-19 pandemic are still vitally important. **In Eastern Europe the Covid-19 situation is still catastrophic and has gotten worse. Many countries deny the elderly access to hospitals or doctors. Ukraine, Russia, and Latvia have strict lockdowns, while they prohibit the elderly from using many essential services, such as getting medical care, or entering stores, except for small food markets. Vaccines are not available for the elderly in most countries. Yet almost every country in the region continues to report record-high daily cases of Covid-19. For those who are immobile, bedridden, or blind, the situation is horrific. They urgently need the help we provide with your support. In these desperate times, the needs of these helpless survivors exceed our capacity to help everyone who is struggling to survive. Thank you for standing with survivors in their time of need.**

Please donate online at www.survivormitzvah.org Or mail a check to:

The Survivor Mitzvah Project

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

\$150 supports a Survivor for 1 month

\$1800 supports a survivor for 1 year of care

Every dollar counts! All donations large and small save lives!

Please go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and designate The Survivor Mitzvah Project as your charity.
Every time you shop online, Amazon donates! Last year we raised thousands of dollars this way!