



Passover & Yom HaShoah
Golden threads of kindness

"The activities of The Survivor Mitzvah Project cannot be weighed on any scale. I very much appreciate your caring for people like me, being interested in our lives, and supporting us emotionally and financially. Crossing thousands of kilometers, the golden threads of kindness, care and consideration from your generous hearts are stretching all the way to our worn-out, aged hearts. I bow my gray-haired head low before you." - Holocaust Survivor Valentin B.

On Passover and Yom HaShoah, as we remember the people who perished during the Holocaust, please remember their family members who survived. They are now elderly, ill, and alone, hungry and cold. They need our help!

In ancient Egypt and during the Holocaust in the 20th Century, the Jewish people fled to parts unknown. The life that awaited them was harsh, cold, and unlike anything they had ever experienced. The journey in each case was perilous.

"The war began. Father was sent to the Front and Mother, together with two children (my brother and I), went on the run. Mother was only thirty years old. We boarded an overcrowded train, with thousands of other people trying to escape. It was bombed by the Germans. Most people were killed. Human heads, bodies, arms, and legs were everywhere. We got lucky, because when the Germans examined the bodies with intent to shoot any survivors, Mother saved us from death by pretending to be dead and covered us with her body. When the Germans left, we continued to run, not knowing where we were going." – Holocaust survivor, M. V., Ukraine

As they did in 1941, millions of people have evacuated from Ukraine during the current Russian invasion and are receiving humanitarian help once they get to safely to other countries.



At left: Ukrainians fleeing in 1941, photo by Yakov Khalip

But elderly Holocaust survivors are not mobile and cannot leave. This is why your donations are critical at this time.

Today we get messages like these from Ukraine:

"Our town has been taken by the enemy. They are bombing and leveling everything we hold dear: schools, libraries, homes, theatres, all places of culture, bombing even our gardens. We are running out of food. We are afraid to go to the only store still open because they are shooting at us on the streets and firing into windows of apartments to kill us."

One survivor who sought refuge in a bomb shelter was surprised to hear a friendly voice on the phone. Overcome with emotion she exclaimed, "Getting this call from you is as if I found a diamond!" She called this war "torture" and said, "I was three years old when the war broke out and now, I am 83. What a special 'treat' this is at the end of life! Alas, what can we do? I am a grandmother and a great grandmother of five, but I suppose now I will not die a natural death."

Please make a special donation today to bring food and medication to Holocaust Survivors
in Ukraine

at www.survivormitzvah.org

Many of our elderly survivors hold on to the few beautiful memories they have of Passover before the War when their families were alive and all together: "I remember our preparations for Pesach as if it is happening right now. In our attic, we stored the Pesach dishware. I would bring down dishes—various clay and metal pots, knives, spoons, etc.—and Grandmother kashered them. When our Shoichet (butcher) died, in order to get kosher meat, Mother Sima would take a live chicken (that we raised) with her on the bus to the Shoichet in Ovruch, 50 kilometers away. He slaughtered the chicken, which she would bring home on the bus that evening. This routine continued for five years! Our grandmother died in 1997 at the age of 101. From the time I was a schoolgirl, I have not eaten bread on Pesach—only matzo. I remember well how the matzo was baked in Poleskoye, our village. One of the local Jewish families would offer the use of their oven for baking. We carried the wood for the oven and flour for the matzo on a sled. In the evening we would bring our baked matzo back home. I still remember the smell of that matzo." – Survivor R. T., [Ukraine](#)

"When spring comes, we celebrate Pesach. This immediately evokes long-forgotten memories. After school, I would walk to Mother's place of work to pick up the key to our apartment. I saw women in white aprons and kerchiefs making matzo; in those days matzoh was not sold in stores. There were many women, and they prepared for the holiday by helping each other. Everything is different now."- Survivor Zinai B., [Ukraine](#)

These survivors know well the horrors of war and its aftermath:

"After the war there was a severe famine. A palm-sized piece of bread and one egg for three people was our total daily food ration."- Survivor Svetlana A."



It could easily come to this again in Ukraine.
Food is running out.

"There are very few of us left, but future generations have to know about this terrible war. Write about it. Spread the word. Show them!" - Survivor Tzila P.

"We bow to you for your love of people, your sensitivity, humanity, understanding, compassion, and honesty in supporting us emotionally and financially."- Survivor Yuriy B.

Please make a special Passover donation
today to help survivors in Ukraine.

Donate online at www.survivormitzvah.org

Or send a check to:

The Survivor Mitzvah Project

2658 Griffith Park Blvd., #299

Los Angeles, CA 90039

Wishing you a Happy Passover - from all of us at The Survivor Mitzvah Project

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