



The Survivor Mitzvah Project™

The Forests Over the Jews

To our kindhearted and compassionate friends,

Our humanitarian trips bring emergency aid to Holocaust survivors in seven countries in Eastern Europe. We deliver your dollars directly to the survivors and place the money right in their hands. And we continue the search for others in need. This year we traveled throughout Latvia and Lithuania and in remote areas of Ukraine, bringing help to people who are isolated and neglected.

From the green valleys of the Carpathian Mountains to the vast sunflower fields that stretch like an endless sea, we drove hundreds of kilometers to bring emergency relief to these sole survivors. And what we found on our travels was incredible.



We brought aid to Tzyle K. in Bratslav, Ukraine (*at left*), alone, in poor health, crying and frightened, she is living in poverty and neglect in a hut that is uninhabitable: without electricity, running water, heat or windows.

And we visited Malka D. in the shtetl of Bazaliya, (*right and below*) who still must work to grow her own food supply at the age of 90.



These people are trying to hold on... but there is nothing to hold on to. Nothing except the hope that help will come.



Almost everything across Ukraine is gone now, except "The Forests Over the Jews," the places where the Jewish populations were murdered *en masse*: men and women, children and elders.

In town after town I asked the local people. "Did you see it? Where did this happen?" "Over there, in that forest." And so we went into the forests.

Eerily beautiful during the day, these forests mask untold horrors. At night they are foreboding.

As we made our way one night on a trail to the killing grounds, the brightness of the moon suddenly shut off like a switch as we approached the trees lining the forest's edge, their branches and trunks twisted and split as if the agony of so many thousands of murdered people was too much for even them to bear. Silence, as we walked on, deeper into the woods. We were surely walking into the heart of darkness, upon the uneven earth of the killing fields.



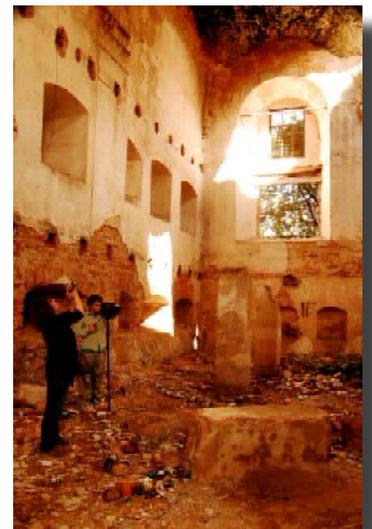
These forests and ravines, where thousands were executed, are everywhere. There are hundreds of mass graves, holding the murdered citizens of countless towns and villages. The enormity of the massacre is unfathomable.



Day after day, town after town, we found just the remnants of a once vibrant culture. We were told the rivers and roads "ran red with blood" and "the earth heaved up and down for days", as dying people, trapped underneath, moaned and screamed for the help that never came. Over and over the same unimaginable descriptions of the mass killings, the spree of terror and savagery brought by the Einsatzgruppen, the mobile killing squads, that roared into towns and villages on motorcycles killing every Jewish man, woman or child in their path in the most brutal ways.

We traveled along roads rarely used by the locals because of the many accidents that happen there today. These roads, where innocent people were brought to their deaths, are thought to be "jinxed".

Mass graves, endless in number, are all that is left of the enormous congregations that once filled massive, cathedral sized Synagogues, some dating as far back as the early 1600s, that now stand empty and in ruins, covered in graffiti and strewn with garbage.



Zane Buzby & Noam Osband photograph Synagogue ruins in Ostroh and Zhovkva



Khust Synagogue

Cemeteries in Chortkiv and Tsvoste



Some cemeteries are being used as pasture land.



Almost everything in these areas is gone now; the ruins reminders that nothing and no one remains except here and there, a few elderly survivors.

With no one to reach out to and no organization or government meeting their needs, elderly survivors find themselves in poverty and isolation, ill and forgotten in their final years. For them, the War never really ended. How many will make it through another winter without aid?

It is up to us to help them.

They are the last generation of Holocaust Survivors and we are the last generation who can intervene on their behalf.

Please make a contribution to The Survivor Mitzvah Project so that we can continue helping all those who are in great need and show them, finally, the loving kindness they deserve.

Help us reach out to everyone!

Please pass this newsletter along to someone you feel would want to know how they can be part of this historic emergency effort to help the last Survivors of the Shoah.



Zane Buzby with Musya V. in Nemirov, Ukraine September 2012

Sincerely and with great thanks, *Zane Buzby*

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

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowable by law.

**You can now make a recurring automatic monthly donation at
www.survivormitzvah.org**



**Watch our humanitarian expeditions at:
www.youtube.com/user/SurvivorMitzvah**

Contact us: (800) 905-6160 or 213-622-5050

Email us: survivormitzvah@gmail.com

Donate online at: www.survivormitzvah.org

or send a check to:

The Survivor Mitzvah Project

2658 Griffith Park Blvd. Suite. #299

Los Angeles, CA 90039

You can make a difference!