



The Survivor Mitzvah Project



To those of us who grew up in the United States, the 4th of July is a beloved holiday celebrating our victory over tyranny, and the ideals of freedom and equality which unite our citizens.

What does July 4th mean to the Holocaust Survivors of Eastern Europe? Not only have many of them never heard of our holiday, their associations to July 4th could not be more different than ours, and include memories of invasion, evacuation, the bombing of their cities and the massacres of their families.

UKRAINE: "On July 4, 1941, my mother and I were evacuated to the city of Chelyabinsk. On the way, the train was often bombed by German airplanes. People left the train in a hurry and ran in different directions trying to hide. Many people were killed. Many mothers lost their children. Our life during evacuation was hard."

- Holocaust Survivor Anna Borisovna



Anna Borisovna and her parents, Zhenya Abramovna & Boris Moiseevich

ESTONIA: "On July 4, 1941, my mother and I escaped on trains, not knowing where we were going. It was scary! Nazis shot at us and people panicked. We got to Siberia, but life there was difficult: we were hungry and freezing. My sister got diphtheria and died. The years of hunger and deprivation took a toll. Because of poor health, I couldn't finish school. I married but had no children, and was a widow at 43. Now I am the only one left."

"...I never knew about your holiday before. I hope you will have a happy July 4th celebration. Thank you for keeping me in your thoughts and caring about me. It gives me energy and meaning to live. I no longer have close relatives, but I have you and I love you very much!" - Survivor Edit U.



Choral Synagogue (1933)

LATVIA: July 4, 1941

marks the beginning of the Holocaust in Latvia. On that date, Nazis invaded and occupied the city of Riga and burned down the Grand Choral Synagogue with Jewish men, women and children locked inside.

Choral Synagogue (07/04/1941)



MOLDOVA: "In July of 1941, we ran away from death, air raids, and horrors. We left everything we had: four cows, four horses, a flock of sheep, geese, turkeys, chickens, ducks, 12 beehives, and 12 hectares of land. We were on the road a long time and it was very dangerous. Trains were bombed, railway lines were dismantled. We had long stops and hid in ravines, trenches and under bushes for protection. We were surrounded by corpses covered in blood, by wounded people begging for help, miserable children who had lost their parents, and parents who cried over dead children, relatives and friends. Our mother hid us under her body, hoping to save us. These horrific pictures have stayed with me...



Grandparents Avrum & Mariam
(1939)



"My grandparents passed away two years into evacuation, from starvation and tsuris [sufferings]."

Sorrows always unite people. Despite the wishes of our enemies, we find each other from across the seas and oceans. You, who are strangers living on another continent, inspired by the call of your compassionate souls, found us, those who survived Nazism and the Holocaust, old and helpless people who've lost everyone. We were tired of life and already expecting our departure to the other world. You appeared, like a sun ray, a star. With your friendly words and kind support, you melted our souls and warmed up our elderly lives."

- Survivor Raisa Davidovna

We are all created equal, but we are not all given equal opportunity.

No matter where we are born, all people long to be free, and to pursue a life full of love and meaning.

Those rights and freedoms, denied to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, are an assault on our ideals of equality, justice and human dignity for all.

This July 4th is a wonderful opportunity to put our ideals into action by supporting the last survivors of the Holocaust. Please make a special July 4th donation today!

Donate online at www.survivormitzvah.org or send a check to:



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2658 Griffith Park Blvd., Ste. #299
Los Angeles, CA 90039



800-905-6160 survivormitzvah@gmail.com 213-622-5050

The Survivor Mitzvah Project is a 501c3 non-profit public charity
100% of your donation goes directly into the hands of a Holocaust survivor in need

\$150 supports 1 survivor for 1 month. \$1800 supports 1 survivor for 1 year.

Donations in any amount save lives!