



The Survivor Mitzvah Project

Rosh Hashanah



Maria Vladimirovna lives in a small, rural village without modern conveniences.

Like 58% of the Holocaust survivors in our program, she cannot afford heat, and the harsh Eastern European winter has arrived.

Elderly and ill, survivors still suffer the physical and emotional trauma of the Holocaust.

"I don't have enough money to pay for utilities. Gas, electricity, and water rates have skyrocketed. I don't have enough even for basic needs."

-- Maria Vladimirovna

"I was born in the village of Rashkovo, Moldova. When the War began, Mother, brother David and I went on the run. Our train was bombed by the Nazis. There were bodies, arms and legs everywhere. Mother pretended to be dead and covered us with her body. When the Germans were gone, we continued to run, not knowing where we were going.

It was winter. We were exhausted and hungry. We were all crying... we crawled into a corn field. The snow covered us. Mother slapped my cheeks, saying, 'Don't fall asleep, you will freeze.' We decided to go to Aunt Rachel, who lived in the ghetto. She hid us in a cellar and brought home corn meal, which she mixed with grass to feed us. One day, the Nazis came with a large dog, grabbed our mother and took her away. We never saw her again.

"I have never told this to anyone. I am so happy I can talk to you without having to look around first. You eased my loneliness."

Later, they came and took us away, too, with some other children. We slept in barns. We drank out of frozen puddles, lying on our stomachs. Once we were forced into a cow barn, locked from the outside with a heavy bar. We heard some barely legible voices. Under our feet were people still alive and moving, after having been shot. We were 'swimming' on these bodies like on waves, and the moans terrified us. G-d forbid that anyone will ever experience what we experienced in that barn.

We were then brought to an orphanage in Balta, Ukraine. They used us to conduct experiments. We were given some kind of powdered pills, and they spread something on our bread and they stood over us, forcing us to swallow it. Several older girls were taken away, raped and then burned. We, the youngest, were left 'for later.' Thank G-d, the Russians advanced and the Germans abandoned us." – Maria Vladimirovna, Moldova

The Survivors in our program send you warm Rosh Hashanah wishes.

Help them keep warm this winter.

Donate to our winter heating drive!

Make their New Year warm & sweet.



"I send New Year's greetings to everybody!

I wish you good health, joy, wellbeing and love - like the love you share with other people, even those you do not know personally, like me.

I am happy that there are still people like you in this world."

- Maria Vladimirovna



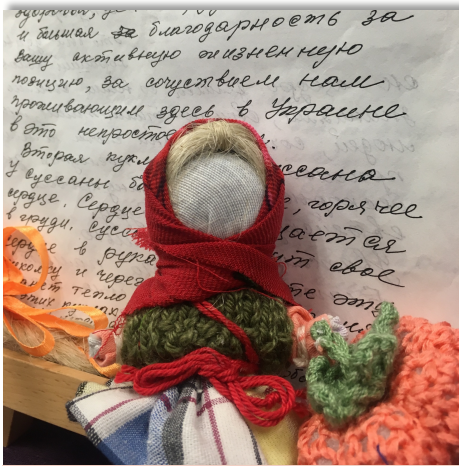
Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur, ten days after Rosh Hashanah, is a time of reflection, introspection and repentance, so that we may be inscribed in the Book of Life for the coming year.

This Yom Kippur, let us all imagine what our lives, our communities, and our world would look like if we each became more caring and compassionate with every passing day.

In recognition of your kindness and compassion, Holocaust Survivor Fanya Isaakovna of Ukraine made these dolls for all of you.

"This doll has such a big, kind and warm heart, it does not fit into her chest, so she holds it in her hands."



"All parts of this doll are attached to each other with special knots. Each contains wishes for good health and deep gratitude for your commitment and compassion."

Fanya was a child during the Holocaust, but its impact has lasted a lifetime.

"I come from a large family of seven. During the War we survived hunger, cold, and fear of being shot simply for being Jewish. I can never forget, even though so many years have passed. When the Nazis showed up, we hid in barns, and in stacks of straw in the empty village of Kugulny. There was nowhere to run – there were only the surrounding empty steppes.

I feel most sorry for our mother. After the war we, the children, went to school, worked, and managed our difficulties. But our mother, until the last days of her life, would not eat a piece of bread before cutting it into seven pieces." – Fanya Isaakovna

Fanya Isaakovna's handmade dolls are a touching reminder of the compassionate connections we have made with the Holocaust's forgotten heroes. As Fanya writes, we are all attached to each other with "special knots" of compassion and humanity.



"I cherish every day of life, but I don't know how I will survive the winter."

Without your help, survivors will be cold and neglected this winter.

Donate to our Winter Heating Drive!

Let your High Holidays gift reflect what helping the last survivors means to you.

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

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

The Survivor Mitzvah Project

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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 to a Holocaust Survivor in need!

Donations in any amount save lives.