

SURVIVING HISTORY

Portraits from Vilna

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The Survivor Mitzvah Project

Living Imprint is pleased to team up with the US-based Survivor Mitzvah Project. If you wish to help survivors in East Europe, among them the narrators you have read, heard or seen about through the Surviving History project, please donate what you can. Thank you.

Foreword from Founder of The Survivor Mitzvah Project

What can you do about the Holocaust?

The individuals you see in the extraordinary exhibition Surviving History: Portraits of a Fading People suffered the horrors of the Holocaust. Their testimony is a valuable and meaningful legacy for future generations. Now, 70 years after the end of the war, these people and thousands like them are still suffering. You can help.

The Survivor Mitzvah Project was founded in 2001 after I visited Lithuania and Belarus. There I encountered elderly Holocaust survivors in their 80s and 90s struggling in their few remaining years, lacking the means to buy even the most basic of human necessities: food, medicine, heat and shelter. Hearing their stories and witnessing their dire circumstances was a life-changing experience for me. I was compelled to help. And so, The Survivor Mitzvah Project was born.

The Survivor Mitzvah Project is an urgent humanitarian effort dedicated to providing emergency aid to elderly and forgotten Jewish Holocaust survivors scattered throughout Eastern Europe who are sick, impoverished and isolated. Their families and communities destroyed by the Nazis, many are sole survivors of their towns and villages. Some fought as brave partisans in the forests of Lithuania and Belarus, some ran from the killing squads eastward where they suffered starvation and despair and some endured unspeakable horrors in Stalinist death camps long after the war ended. In every case, the Germans and their local collaborators decimated lives and destroyed the vibrant Jewish communities of our ancestors.

Today The Survivor Mitzvah Project is their only lifeline. Our aid ensures that they may live out their last years with some measure of comfort, support, and dignity. The Survivor Mitzvah Project has dramatically changed the lives of hundreds of elderly survivors in seven countries: Lithuania, Latvia, Ukraine, Moldova, Slovakia, Russia and Belarus.

There are thousands more waiting for aid. They need your help. The current world financial crisis is another crushing blow to these brave individuals who have suffered so much for so long. Many will be without food and heat this winter.

Please go to survivormitzvah.org. Read their letters, their testimonies, their histories - and make a special donation.

This is an urgent call to action: You can do something about the Holocaust.

Zane Buzby, Founder
The Survivor Mitzvah Project

[Email Zane Buzby](#)