

Holocaust Heroes

Real People who Triumphed over Adversity



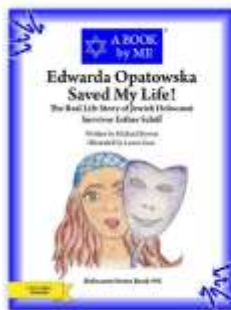
Esther Avruch was a small girl in the Warsaw Ghetto when she slid under the barbed wire to go find food for her starving family. One day she came back to find the ghetto was liquidated, and she decided to pass herself off as a Christian. Esther stayed with kind families but feared for her life each day. Often, she was questioned by Nazis or SS officers. She survived and met her husband in a Displaced Persons (DP) camp. They immigrated to America, the land of opportunity.

#poland#wwii#kindness#illinois



It was a miracle that Esther Katz survived the horrors of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belson concentration camps. Her father and brother tragically perished, but she and her mother survived long enough for her beloved mother to die free and not a prisoner. Esther married and immigrated to the United States where they raised their family. She was inspired to speak in defiance of Holocaust deniers and became beloved by many in the Quad Cities community before her passing.

#czechoslovakia#antisemitism#miracle#illinois



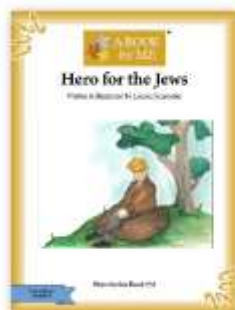
Esther Schiff returned home from a friend's house and found her family had been taken away. A quick thinker, she adopted a typical name of Edwarda and stood in a line with other young people to go by train to Germany. There, she became a slave laborer on a farm. The radio constantly played anti-semitic hatred, and she feared for her life every day. She immigrated to the U.S. and married a handsome Jewish American soldier, and raised a family.

#poland#survival#thinkfast#illinois



Holocaust survivor Yvonne Aronson was interviewed over the phone by teens who created this storybook. During Nazi persecution Yvonne hid in a convent with other women in her family. Her father died in a concentration camp, but she and her mother lived to immigrate to America and begin a new life. She told the teen authors, "What doesn't break you, makes you," which inspired them greatly. Her words inspire their young readers as well.

#belgium#war#inspiration#illinois



The young author/illustrator for this book placed fifth in the nation at the National History Day competition in Washington D.C. The subject of her documentary was Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was a true hero for resisters during WWII. Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian, became famous for his opposition to Nazi dictatorship. This included his very vocal challenge to Hitler's persecution of the Jews. He was executed by Nazis at Flossenburg concentration camp.

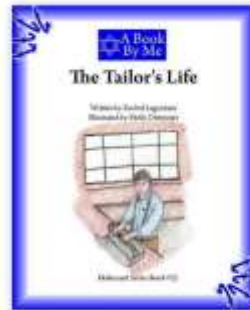
#poland#resistance#hero#germany





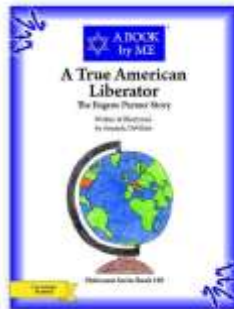
Two girls interviewed Eva Bostock via Skype and learned that she had lost both of her parents in Hitler's death camps. She was alone until she met and married her husband Bill who also survived the Holocaust. They immigrated to Australia where he had relatives. Like all survivors, they started over and had a good life there. He passed away, and she was alone again in a nursing home when the girls took on this project, which pleased her very much before her death.

#austria#trauma#startingover#australia



Leo Israel Samuel survived the war simply because of his trade skills. He was sent to the Krakow-Plaszow concentration camp where Amon Goeth was the commandant. Goeth was infamous and brutal as shown in the movie Schindler's List. He became known as the "butcher of Plaszow" and he was feared. But, it was this man who saved Leo's life. He needed a tailor, and that made Leo valuable. Rabbi Samuel (Leo's son) told the young author Leo's important story.

#czechoslovakia#survival#miracle#california



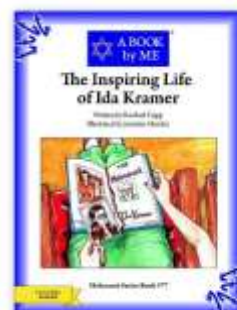
American Soldier Eugene Parmer served in the European theater where he was ordered to get intelligence from Dachau concentration camp. Upon arrival, he shot the lock the gate and was mobbed by Jewish prisoners. They knocked him down to the ground because they all wanted the American flag pins from his uniform. They had waited a long time for liberation, and they wanted a souvenir. Afterward, they showed him where some Nazi soldiers were hiding in fear.

#allies#victory#survival#iowa



Oskar Schindler's story was made famous by the movie Schindler's list. He was a member of the Nazi Party who is credited saving the lives of over 1,000 Jews during WWII. He saved Jewish workers from deportation and death in the Nazi concentration camps by employing them in his ammunition and enamelware factories in Poland. It cost Schindler dearly, as he had to give Nazi officials large bribes and luxury items obtained on the black market to keep his workers safe.

#righteous#courage#empathy#germany



Ida Kramer is famous in the Quad Cities for her hard work and dedication to Holocaust education. Her parents immigrated to America before the war, but Ida learned as an adult of the deaths of many of her own family members in the concentration camps. The death toll included her father's twin, and this made her passionate about equipping teachers to fulfill Holocaust education mandates. Ida was instrumental in an advisory position at the conception of A BOOK by ME.

#pennsylvania#dedication#volunteer#iowa

