



The Silicon Valley
Holocaust Survivors Association



Dear friends,

I'm proud to announce that we have successfully captured the stories of six survivors and their family members from Israel, US and Europe. To read more about these stories [click here](#).

I would like to thank all of our contributors who enabled us to capture these stories in time and pass them on to future generations. I am also deeply grateful to all of you worldwide for your letters of support in our mission.

This newsletter brings to you exciting news and updates about our progress, so please scroll down to read more.

My best wishes for a happy and healthy new year,
Dr. Nurit Jugend

Nurit Jugend

Project director & producer
They Played For Their Lives

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An unforgettable reunion...

It was an unforgettable journey, in which two old friends - **Frank Grunwald** and **Hellmuth Szprycer** reunited once again after 65 years!



Hellmuth Szprycer was only 13 years-old when he whistled with the 'Swingers' Jazz band in ghetto Terezin to save the lives of his grandparents. Frank Grunwald was only 10 years-old when he and his older brother John sang popular Jazz songs for just a few moments of mental escape. Fate joined the two boys in the barracks of Auschwitz Birkenau family camp.

After the Auschwitz concentration camp liberation in 1945, Frank and Hellmuth's ways departed and they each continued on with their lives. In this unforgettable journey filled with tears and laughter, we witnessed the reunion of two old friends. Each of them shared their memories, their personal stories of music and survival in the camps, and joyful moments of playing music and old tunes together. To read more about this story [click here](#).



Only 12 years-old and involved....

We are delighted to witness the strong impact that our film has on people worldwide from its early stages of production, and the many lives that it touches. We are greatly appreciative for all of the positive and strong support of our work. We're especially proud of the involvement that the young generation demonstrate. One of our more passionate and enthusiastic supporters is 12 years-old **Addy Feibel** from Bexley Ohio, whose determined to assist us in our mission to tell the stories of music and survival.



Addy explains:

It never fails to amaze me how Holocaust survivors managed to keep their hope and their faith under the most unbearable situation. They never gave up, and out of these horrific events we have their heroic stories of survival. I find it easier to understand why people who "played for their lives" had the will to survive. Music got them through the hard times. At times of complete despair, music was there as an outlet, a place where they could just loose themselves in the melody and the rhythm of the song. It meant so much to me to hear the survivors on the trailer talk about music. I could just tell by their expressions how important music was to them and how much they cherished it. Music is something I cherish listening to and playing. When I am upset or stressed, I sit down and I play. Music is such an important part of my generations' life. While not all musicians, most of us listen to music, whatever kind it might be. Like many my age, when I feel mad or upset, I listen to my favorite song to escape from reality, just as some survivors did. The difference is that no one's tales of misery today could ever compare to the horrific stories that these survivors have to tell. Music is the bridge between my generation and the survivors. It's a way for our generation to hear their stories of survival, and it's a way for us to connect their stories to our lives. This film will insure that my generation and the future generations will also never forget.

Addy is self-motivated and strong-willed with a wonderful gift for music and writing. She

has been dedicating her time to raise awareness of the film among her community and friends by writing articles and blogs for the local community newspapers. Addy, who recently celebrated her Bat-Mitzvah made an admirable decision to donate a portion of her gifts to the completion of the film. We are honored to have Addy on our team!

Addy's involvement with the film represents precisely our mission to keep the conversation about the Holocaust alive among the future generations, and strive for more tolerance and acceptance among people worldwide.

Your contribution is critical to the completion of the film!

Your donation will enable us to film the remaining survivors
and help us chronicle the story of
"music that evil could not destroy".
- Alice Sommer, 107 years-old survivor

Please consider a donation of \$25 or more today!

Trailer

We have recently released our official trailer for the film. This breath-taking trailer features several of the survivors who will be included in the final film. Each and every one of these survivors has their own personal experience from the Holocaust, but they all share in common extraordinary stories of music and survival.



Alice Sommer

Addy