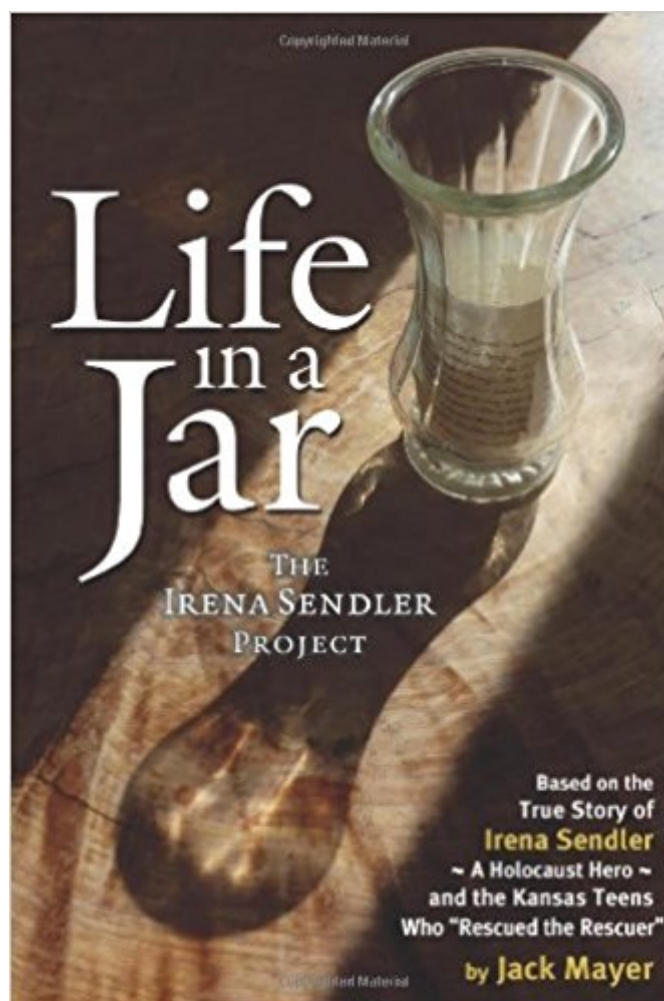


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Life In A Jar: The Irena Sendler Project



Synopsis

During World War II, Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic social worker, organized a rescue network of fellow social workers to save 2,500 Jewish children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. Incredibly, after the war her heroism, like that of many others, was suppressed by communist Poland and remained virtually unknown for 60 years. Unknown, that is, until three high school girls from an economically depressed, rural school district in southeast Kansas stumbled upon a tantalizing reference to Sendler's rescues, which they fashioned into a history project, a play they called *Life in a Jar*. Their innocent drama was first seen in Kansas, then the Midwest, then New York, Los Angeles, Montreal, and finally Poland, where they elevated Irena Sendler to a national hero, championing her legacy of tolerance and respect for all people. *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* is a Holocaust history and more. It is the inspirational story of Protestant students from Kansas, each carrying her own painful burden, each called in her own complex way to the history of a Catholic woman who knocked on Jewish doors in the Warsaw ghetto and, in Sendler's own words, "tried to talk the mothers out of their children." Inspired by Irena Sendler, they are living examples of the power of one person to change the world and models for young people everywhere. * * * * 60% of the sales of this book are donated to the Irena Sendler/*Life in a Jar* Foundation. The foundation promotes Irena Sendler's legacy and encourages educators and students to emulate the project by focusing on unsung heroes in history to teach respect and understanding among all people, regardless of race, religion, or creed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up-Mayer recounts the inspiring story of Irena Sendler, the Catholic Polish social worker who organized a rescue network to hide 2,500 Jewish children during the Holocaust, and frames it with a present-day story of three Protestant teens in Kansas creating a National History Project play about her life. Sendler's own life history is dramatic and inspiring; she was brutally tortured by the Nazis in the infamous Pawiak prison, and her extraordinary good work during the war was suppressed by communist Poland and remained virtually unknown for 60 years. Narrator Patrick Lawlor does an excellent job conveying the suspense and tension in Sendler's life. Lawlor's voice lends the right emotion and inflection to each character. He realistically re-creates the distinguishing inflections of each generation as the American teens travel to Poland to interview survivors and meet Irena Sendler herself. VERDICT This work's emphasis on survival and rescue will appeal to both adult and teen listeners.-Ellen Frank Bayer, Flushing High School, NY

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"The story will take your breath away ... and haunt and inspire you, as well. . . . you don't want to put down the book." - 2014 Ben Franklin Digital Award "Mayer's superb novelization of her exploits elevates social work to the intensity of a spy thriller. . . . A gripping real-life tale of extraordinary courage that had an enduring impact."- Kirkus Review "Meticulously researched, this story has been told with grace and passion."- Jay Parini, author of *The Last Station* "A beautiful story, beautifully told . . . at last." - The US Review of Books "While *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project* is based on a true story, it reads like a novel. It will appeal to anyone with an interest in history, as well as teachers of all subjects . . .

- ForeWord Clarion Review "Every high school student and teacher should read this book. We all should." - Michele Forman

- National Teacher of the Year 2001 "Jack Mayer masterfully weaves these two separate but intimately connected stories into one larger saga . . . It will inspire all who read it, especially the young." - Francis R. Nicosia - Univ. of Vermont "The monument to Irena Sendler was raised neither in Poland nor in Israel, but in the hearts and deeds of young Americans. Jack Mayer's inspiring book brings to life the true story of high school students in Uniontown, Kansas and a Polish Holocaust rescuer. The teens conceived the theatrical performance called *Life in a Jar*. Their message was simple: one who goes against evil and rescues goodness, changes the world."

- Professor Jacek Leociak, Polish Academy of Sciences author of *The Warsaw Ghetto: A Guide to the Perished City* (with Barbara Engelking)

Breathtaking book. I have read so many books on the holocaust and never heard about Irena Sandler. Irena saved over 2500 children yet we have never heard of her, Thanks to a research project by some american high school students Irena is finally getting the recognition that she deserves. Must read, one of those books you will have a hard time putting down. If you do not want to read it for yourself, read it for the over 2500 children she saved and what they and their families went thru for these children to be rescued

This was an extraordinary moving story of the Holocaust in Poland, it's tragedies, it's heroes, and a group of teenagers who got the story out about one very special person, who lived to tell them about it. These stories should continue to be told so that this generation and the future generations never forget history...in hopes of never repeating it.

This book should be mandatory reading for every school age child in America! It is honest and compelling! I could not put it down, but I made myself after every chapter. I found it important to have time to absorb each chapter, to let sink in the magnitude of this story. No matter how many books I read about the holocaust, I am ever amazed at the strength of the human spirit. This is by far the best account I've ever read!

This story needs to be told to all junior high and senior High school students. The Author tells the story with much emotion and feeling, describing the characters. I can't believe it is not available in print either at my library, (only on Kindle) or Barnes and Noble. A new edition needs to be released. Definitely a 5-star start rating. My Book Club also loved it., so much discussion.

Loved the story. Irena was persistent and tenacious rescuing and keeping track of the children. The harrowing conditions of the retrieval of the kids made this a real page turner. Credit also needs to go to the teacher who suggested and assisted the students in the US in trying to find out info on Irene and then using that information to make a lasting difference. This was an excellent book. Worthy of re-reading.

I found this book very compelling. At first, I thought: "Oh no, another Holocaust story, I have read so many, do I really need to read another ?" Apparently the answer is "Yes". Each one that I read I learn things that I did not know before about how the Holocaust effected persons lives individually and society as a whole. This time, I learned more about how when people work together for good,

they really can make a difference. This book demonstrates that concept both in the time frame of the Holocaust itself and in current times as these 3 high school age girls work together to bring Irene's real life story to light so that her secretive and dangerous work to save the lives of young Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto will not be forgotten in modern times. At the same time, each of them finds healing for the trials they are facing in their own personal lives through this History project. I found myself drawn to these characters and needing to be reminded that this is a true story of compassion and courage during a time great of darkness in the History of our world.

This is a must read! It's a very powerful read based upon a true story. It highlights what a difference people can make in difficult times. It also highlights the power of students and educators to impact lives through a school project. It's not a comfortable read but worth every minute.

Amazing what simple human compassion can inspire and accomplish; Irena Sendler and her vast network of kindred souls managed to rescue 2500 children from certain death in the Warsaw ghetto. Her remarkable story is discovered by three high school girls from Kansas working on a project for National History Day. Jack Mayer gives the reader a most touching account of true selflessness despite horrific conditions and risk of death. "Life in a Jar" should be included on every high school mandatory reading list. Don't miss this extraordinary story !

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