

## Profiles on Courage Research Project

### Introduction

Students will research different personalities from the Soviet Jewry movement. They will determine what motivated them, what happened to them, and what happened to them after the movement ended.

### Objectives

At the end of the lesson, students will be able to describe and/or depict a person who was active in the Soviet Jewry movement through the creation of a project or presentation.

Big Ideas	Jews are responsible for one another (solidarity).
	You can make a difference.
Content	To explain the Jewish values that led Jewish people to fight for Soviet Jewish rights.
	To relate to the historical events that led to freedom for Soviet Jews.
Skills	To build a civic engagement plan.
	To contribute to causes relating to (Jewish/all) human freedom.
Meaning	To reflect on your obligation to help (Jewish/all) people in need.
	To reflect on the power of a common (Jewish) voice.

### Essential Question:

- What motivated the person to work on behalf of the Jews in the former Soviet Union?
- What motivated you to protest against the Soviet Government?
- What did you do specifically for the movement? What was it like? How did you feel throughout your involvement?
- What were the long-term outcomes for others? For you?



**Duration:** 4-5 classes for research, rehearsal/recording and presentation

**Materials:**

**Resources on the internet:**

- <http://www.sovietjewrymovement.org/the-student-struggle-for-soviet-jewry.html>
- <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/student-struggle-for-soviet-jewry-sssji>
- <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/refusniks>
- [http://www.angelfire.com/sc3/soviet\\_jews\\_exodus/English/Interview\\_s/InterviewRichter.shtml](http://www.angelfire.com/sc3/soviet_jews_exodus/English/Interview_s/InterviewRichter.shtml) (Access other interviews by click on the menu on the right hand side.)
- <http://kosharovsky.com/home-page/>
- <http://www.sovietjewrymovement.org/the-student-struggle-for-soviet-jewry.html>
- <http://www.ajhs.org/timeline-american-soviet-jewry-movement>
- <https://www.norighttoleave.com/bibliography.html>

**Books:**

Beckerman, Gal. When They Come for Us, We'll Be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Boston, MA, and New York, NY. 2010.

Kosharovsky, Yuli. We Are Jews Again. Trans. Stefani Hoffman. Kosharovsky.com, n.d. Web. 16 Jan. 2014. <<http://www.kosharovsky.com/home-page/books>>. This unpublished book written by a former refusenik, Yuli Kosharovsky, served as a very useful resource.

Mendelevich, Yosef. Unbroken Spirit: A Heroic Story Of Faith, Courage and Survival. Gefen Publishing. Jerusalem, Israel. 2012.

Potok, Chaim. The Gates of November: Chronicles of the Slepak Family. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. New York, NY. 1996.

Sharansky, Natan. Fear No Evil. Trans. Stefani Hoffman. New York: Random, 1988. Print.



## Film:

Refusenik <http://refusenikmovie.com/>

Operation Wedding

As Old As Our Eyes: Yelena's Story [http://citizenfilm.org/portfolio\\_page/yelenas-story-as-old-as-our-eyes/](http://citizenfilm.org/portfolio_page/yelenas-story-as-old-as-our-eyes/)

## Procedure

1. Choose a former refusenik or Soviet Jewry activist to research. Begin research and create and outline about what to cover
2. Create a rough draft of a poster, flyer, video, web site, or other media resource to educate your classmates on this hero and how their actions are, or were, heroic
3. Turn in your final project and present your project to your class

\*\*\*Alternatively, the teacher may want to create a “Human Library.”

[https://www.erasmusplus.ro/library/files/Ghiduri%20Connector%202017/Human%20Library\\_Connector%202017.pdf](https://www.erasmusplus.ro/library/files/Ghiduri%20Connector%202017/Human%20Library_Connector%202017.pdf)

## Resources for Different Project Types

Podcasting:

<http://www.teachingideas.co.uk/multimedia/podcasting-0>

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/printouts/podcasts-nuts-bolts-creating-30311.html>

Creating a flyer:

<https://www.canva.com/>

Owner's Manual:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/classroom-writing-owner-manual-862.html>

Social Poster:

<https://www.canva.com/>

Video:

<https://www.powtoon.com/home/?>

## Further Reading

Middle School/ High School <http://www.history.org/history/teaching/enewsletter/volume7/dec08/teachstrategy.cfm>

Elementary school <https://educators.brainpop.com/lesson-plan/famous-historical-figures-lesson-plan/>

<https://100leaders.org/classroom-resources>