I missed my father, may his memory be a blessing, at our seder this year. Growing up with two Holocaust survivors at the table, my dad and his sister, and more than a dozen cousins who had escaped the Soviet Union, the feeling of freedom around our Passover table was palpable, even if unspoken. I wonder what he would have thought about a Zoom seder with more than 200 Princeton alumni, students, parents and faculty. I'm guessing he would have shaken his head in disbelief and laughed in delight.

My children were very young when my father died and don't have any direct memory of him. They never heard him speak about how he survived the war, faith and resilience intact, and unintentionally inspired his daughter to become a rabbi. Perhaps that's why I'm so moved this year to commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Commemoration Day, with a survivor who is the mother of a math professor at Princeton and the grandmother of my children's close friends. It is so rare and precious to hear direct survivor testimony these days.

Zsuzsanna Osvath survived the war in Budapest, thanks to the heroic efforts of her babysitter, Erzsebet Fajo, who risked her life to hide Zsuzsanna, her brother, and her parents. Zsuzsanna was the Director of the Holocaust Studies Program at University of Texas, Dallas and authored two books, “When the Danube Ran Red” and “My Journey Home: Life after the Holocaust.” Please join us on Monday, April 20, 7:30 pm via Zoom for this program.

At a time when we all need to find resilience, leaving Passover and heading into Yom HaShoah, the Jewish calendar gives us the gift of learning from our past as we face an uncertain future. May the stories and the memories of those who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and rebuilt their lives continue to be a source of inspiration to all of us.

Students are not the only ones struggling in these days of isolation and living at home. During a recent Parents Town Hall zoom session led by Rabbi Julie and initiative co-chairs, Dina Brewer ’88 + ’90 P22 P22 P24 and Kim Shafer P21, parents shared they have found it equally challenging on different levels: consoling their students - especially seniors, managing full households while working and for some living in communities where friends are sick and dying. Other topics that emerged were mobilizing CJL parents and alumni to create an internship network for students, as well as a Parents Only Facebook page. PLEASE JOIN OUR PARENTS GROUP

Admitted and prospective students are welcome to meet with Rabbi Julie Roth and our amazing CJL student leaders for a panel about Jewish life at Princeton. The panel will include: a virtual tour of the CJL building, connecting with representatives from our fantastic student groups, and discussion of CJL opportunities beyond the "Orange Bubble" and anything else you want to know about Princeton and/or Jewish life on campus. REGISTER

Join us virtually for Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day events, a timely biomedical lecture and more. CLICK HERE